January/February 2004 ISSUE

Central Alternative

A Publication for Central PA's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community.

Business Profile
J. A. Sharp
Jeweler
One of a kind

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Black and Gay in America:
The Gay Side of Harlem's Renaissance

By Eric Ledell Smith

When organizing the 1993 March on Washington for gay and lesbian rights, leaders consciously paralleled Martin Luther King's historic 1963 March on Washington. Their mission was "a simple matter of justice." Black leaders and ministers nationwide called comparisons between blacks and gays offensive.

Last month, conservative African-American leaders renewed attacks on comparisons of same-sex marriage to bans on interracial marriage. "It sticks in my craw," says Rev. Talbert Swan II, a Springfield, Mass. minister.

Conservative columnist Mychal Massie, said, "It is an outrage to align something so offensive as this with the struggle of a fallen man, a great man such as Martin Luther King." He further opined, "Homosexuality is a chosen lifestyle. I could not choose the color of my skin. For me to ride down the street and get profiled just because of my skin color is something a homosexual will never go through."

As a group, African Americans are most opposed to gay couples marrying. A recent Pew Research Poll says 60 percent of blacks opposed gay marriage.

Moderate black leaders like King's widow, Coretta Scott King, see the struggle for lgbt rights as an extension of African American civil rights. She invited the gay activist Matt Foreman to speak at the 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" on The Mall in Washington.

Emory College professor David Garrow notes the two movements show parallels like arguments that marriage between races and sexes is unnatural and against God's law. Carol Moseley Braun and Rev. Al Sharpton have declared support for gay marriage, comparing it to past discrimination against blacks.

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Central Sighting - **Millersville University Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People and Their Families exhibited recently at Millersville University. The images portrayed the ever-changing nature of the American Family.**

A Lesbian at Every Table:
The Women's Circle

By Lisa Granite

Granted, central Pennsylvania circa 2004 is definitely not a lesbian mecca. You probably don't know a soul who moved here from San Francisco. And while in Provincetown, the local lasses now argue over who to invite to the wedding, we still argue over whether or not to hold hands in public.

Mecca or no, there are lesbians in these parts and we manage to find one another.

One of the newer resources for local queer gals is The Women's Circle (TWC). The Circle's mission is "to foster a community where lesbians are empowered to live to their fullest potential and to create a unified community while offering a safe place to gather and build confidence, skills and connections."

The three women who helped create TWC, Amy Shestack, Bobbi Carmitchell and Amy Skillman, are determined to make that mission a reality in central Pennsylvania. The idea for TWC developed from a February 2001 focus group meeting. The Institute for Cultural Partnerships organized the meeting to help The Greater Harrisburg Foundation better understand local lgbt needs.

"The women in the group got really excited about creating some kind of entity that could be a resource for lesbians in the area," Skillman said. "The initial dream was to create a center that would be targeted to lesbians and allied women.

"When we first conceived this initiative, it was really in large part about having a safe place for women to meet other women," she continued. "I think it's really important to recognize that lesbians need this kind of access to other

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Lancaster Celeb Photographer Gary Boas Collects 60,000 Images

By Ginny Caputo

In 1966, a quiet Lancaster boy, so crippled by shyness that he opted for home-schooling, saw Robert Goulet in front of Lancaster General Hospital. Using a Brownie camera, he snapped his first celebrity photograph.

That image appeared 34 years later in "Starstruck", his book showcasing 300 images of 60s & 70s celebs from his collection of 60,000.

"I use a camera to capture life. That would be it because I don't know a damn thing about photography," he says of himself. "I do it for the love of people and the love of

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The cover of Starstruck: Photographs from a fan published by Dilettante Press, 1999

FAB Honors Three with Awards

The Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center hosted FAB 2003 for its annual awards gala, the first large group to use the facility for an event, according to Marc-Carroll Rigel, event chairperson.

The annual event offers food, entertainment, music, and a silent auction. The ticket prices of $65 and $125 dollars cover the actual cost of the event. The proceeds from the program advertising and the silent auction portion of the evening have supported a long list of worthy lgbt projects. "FAB uses all the money raised from the silent auction and the ads to support lgbt projects and has given away $118,000 since 1996," Rigel says.

In recent years, FAB has served as the fundraising arm of Greater Harrisburg Foundation's Equity for Gays and Lesbian Partnership (EGAL) Fund, affiliated with the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership.

"Our work will not be done until there is equality and no more discrimination," said Connie Sutton as she was presented with her award. Among other activities, honored for her years of faithful service to Central Pennsylvania Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Sutton first became involved when her son, Jeff, came out in school and was harassed. She saw his struggle first hand and, in the process, found PFLAG.

Known as a quiet worker who prefers to be behind the scenes, Sutton has volunteered for a decade with the group. She is often seen attending rallies, passing out literature, or answering the hotline. As a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Mechanicsburg, Sutton was instrumental in having the church publicly identified as a "Welcoming"

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Candice Gingrich
sets "out" example

Photo by Ryan Sowers

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Midtown Cinema
Asked to Vacate Lease
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Be Prepared
Personal Planning
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AIDS Community Alliance Benefit February 7

Get set for "A Road Trip across America" with AIDS Community Alliance (ACA) on February 7, 5:30 p.m.

ACA's popular annual fundraiser – known as Premiere – takes place this year at Hershey's Antique Automobile Club of America Museum.

As always, "black tie is optional," says ACA CEO Phil Goropoulos. The evening features a silent and live auction, food and entertainment celebrating the diversity and culture of the United States of America.

The event benefits ACA clients. "We serve 850 clients across seven counties," Goropoulos points out.

Tickets are $110 for an individual and $200 for a couple. More information at 1-800-867-1550 or philaca@epix.net.

Central Sighting - Harrisburg - D'Amore's Deli & Espresso Bar recently opened at Broad Street Market, Harrisburg. Owner Dana DeMore and Jennifer Farr hope to expand into evening hours. Salami, cappacolla, olive oils, soups, and cheeses grace the upscale establishment which also offers personal chef and catering service (www.dinnersbydana.com). Hours: Tues., 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Wed.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Alternative CENTRAL

Central to your life.

The mission of Alternative Central is to promote greater understanding and acceptance of central Pennsylvania's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. AC provides a positive voice in our fight for basic civil rights, and for the region's thousands of hard-working, tax-paying lgbt citizens.

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The Women's Circle continued

lesbians outside a bar setting."

Carmitchell then developed a survey to find out what kind of activities and services lesbians wanted in a center. Approximately 300 local women completed the survey, offering suggestions for everything from library recommendations to domestic partnerships, advocacy and coming out support; the survey results can be viewed on TWC's Web site (www.womenscircle.org).

"The goal is eventually to become a touchstone resource for lesbians in the area," Skillman explained. "We don't want to replace other lesbian resources, just bring them together."

The physical incarnation of the center will take some time to realize and is still being researched. Safety and privacy are two major concerns.

"There are some lesbians who believe visibility is everything, and the more visible our community is the more the heterosexual community will realize that lesbians are here, we're everywhere," said Carmitchell. "But there are also some lesbians who don't really feel that they need to be out or are not comfortable being out. They don't feel safe just walking up to a building that would have a gay or lesbian sign in front. Simply getting up the courage to walk into a lesbian center is such a basic concept, and yet it's the biggest hurdle in a lot of respects."

For now, TWC circumvents the issue by holding meetings at people's homes. The organization also collaborates with the Center for Women's Creative Expression to offer programs at that facility.

"Rather than creating a center where people come to us, we ARE the center and we kind of go to them. We are then able to provide services in places that are safe and comfortable for women," said Skillman. "So the circle is created wherever women get together!"

"The other good thing about moving around is accessibility for women," Carmitchell continued. "We don't want to make it a solely Harrisburg-based women's group. Rural areas are very difficult to live in — you can't just go to the local grocery store bulletin board and find out where the lesbian groups are meeting.

"One thing we want to focus on this year is to do more outreach, to get out to other groups of women that we haven't contacted yet," she added.

TWC gatherings take place about once a month. They usually

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Letter from the Publisher & Editor

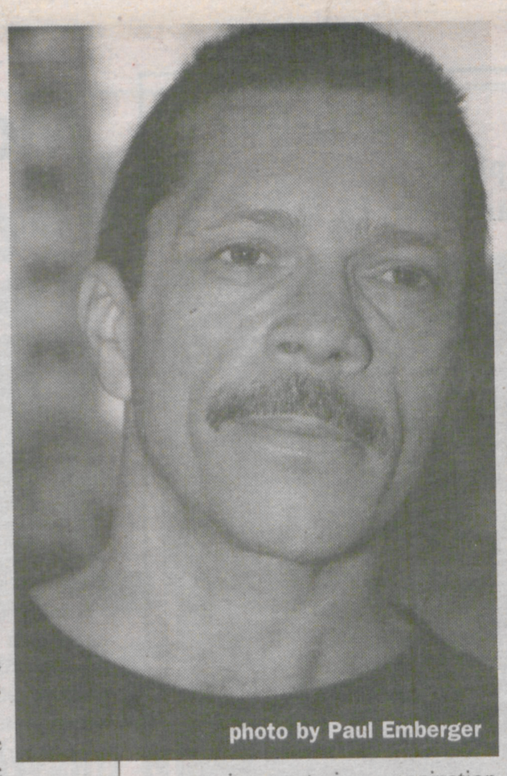

photo by Paul Emberger

Last issue I published a fellow writer's adage: "As I give, I get." Recently, I've been abundantly gifted by my peers' acknowledgment.

AIDS Community Alliance (ACA) presented me with a community service award. My work with HIV began when the epidemic first ravaged our community, before it moved indiscriminately to anyone – straight, gay, black, white, on the down low - not practicing safer sex.

I find it disturbing that the number of US gay men newly diagnosed with HIV infection was 17 percent higher last year than in 1999, according to new data. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention attribute the trend to (1) complacency about risky behavior that arose in the wake of lifesaving HIV drugs, and (2) a new generation of gay men with no memory of the epidemic's early, devastating years.

The regional gay men's community must find a way to put HIV/AIDS back on its radar.- no judgments, no whining, no excuses, no silly, blame/game arguments - just do it.

In 1997, I'd formed Positive Opportunities, a free HIV benefits counseling and job placement service. I take no pay for writing the grants and providing the services, and all the meetings in between. You needn't think more of me now that I've told you that. It's a small organization not requiring much time. AIDS Community Alliance provides free office space and equipment.

FAB also presented me with a community service award, along with PFLAG leader Connie Sutton and youth extraordinaire Jared Roberts. By the time Harrisburg Magazine called to say I'd been chosen as a "Mover & Shaper," I was truly humbled.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of public service. Sometimes one does what one does because it's the right thing to do, not because there's some future gain. So it is with many lgbt and related volunteer organizations working diligently to give back to our own and the larger community.

In this issue, three new freelance writers join our growing ranks. And in a special section, we cover "Be Prepared - Personal Planning".

For his first article, historian and published author Eric Ledell Smith, author of four books and now working on a biography of Harlem Renaissance figures, writes on being "Black and Gay in America: The Gay Side of Harlem's Renaissance".

In his first article, finance wizard Woody Derricks writes about wealth management for domestic partners. The phenomenal Adrienne Mansfield, vice president, Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians & Allies in Dialog, is now our Williamsport Region Correspondent.

Trustworthy Lisa Granite reports on a caring, nurturing organization called The Women's Circle. When will we have a caring, nurturing organization for men?

Insightful Michael Chapaloney interviews former US House Speaker Newt Gingrich's sister Candice Gingrich.

Tameca Waid and Monique Pearson of "Forever Books" give us their holiday picks for gifts.

Ted Martin profiles Jude Sharp Custom Jeweler.

Derek J. Cordier takes a "look back" at gay and lesbian issues.

Nationally-syndicated columnist Paula Martinac writes about straight rage over queer marriages.

Our best wishes to all our advertisers and readers for a prosperous and healthy 2004!

Frank Pizzoli
Publisher & Editor

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The Capital Blue Cross Bal Masque...

Gary Boas Collects 60,000 Images

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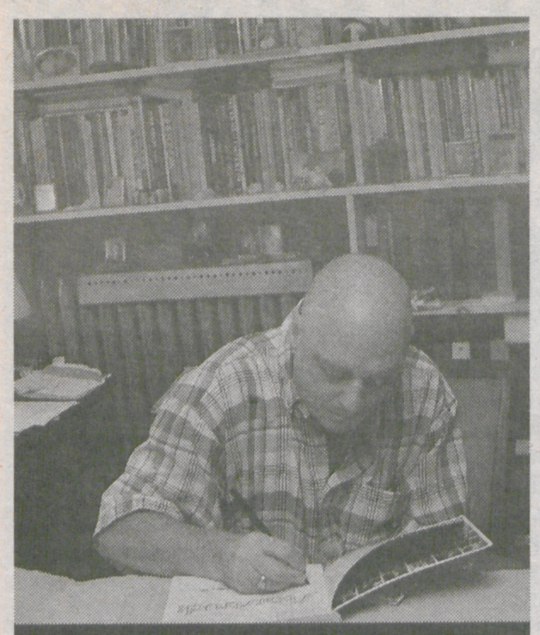

Gary signs his book, Starstruck, for interviewer, Ginny Caputo. The shelves in the background hold his famous archive of celebrity images and autographs.

meeting celebrities."

Although "unsung" in his hometown of Lancaster, Boas images are exhibited around the globe. Starstruck received worldwide publicity and enthusiastic reviews. Images from it were shown in New York, San Francisco, Omaha, London, Paris, Geneva, Los Angeles, Amsterdam, and Naples galleries. At an art event in Turin involving 180 galleries, five were representing Boas' work.

At his 2000 New York exhibit, his bedroom interior, including the dresser with his collection of press passes hanging on the mirror, shelves of autographed books and photos, his bed, were all set up in a gallery to recreate the room where he stores his collection. Gary brought two busloads of childhood friends to the exhibit which he describes as a "living funeral" but "in a good way."

Last October, Boas trekked to Naples, Italy, for an opening of his exhibit, where he met Xavier Hollander, The Happy Hooker. Invited to visit her villa for a week, he said, "It was like being at a brothel run by a sexual Auntie Mame!" In December, he was invited to Rome by European Universal Studios for their Christmas party where he will be the party's theme and guest of honor.

Soon Barcelona, Hamburg, Germany, and his hometown city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania may join the list of cities where he's exhibited. Alana Marbury Hunter of Lancaster's Gallery 141 has been in talks with Gary about an exhibit. No specific date has yet been set.

Boas dislikes being called a "paparazzo." "That's a Ron Galella. They set up situations. They stalk. There is no admiration for the celeb." After photographing celebrities for 20 years without compensation other than his pleasure, Boas eventually worked professionally for Retna photo agency. How does Boas approach celebrities?

"If I listened to 'tomorrow' or 'no', I wouldn't get anything done. I do ask permission. Please and thank you do work!" He uses Courtney Love's reaction as an example. She said, "You're the most politest photographer I ever (expletive) met!"

His attitude when a celeb says no?

"Is a 'no' a 'no' because of that person or is it changeable? We'll see each other again. I have a keen sense of people. God gave me the gift of perception. I can see how people feel in front of a camera. I can tell by their physical persona if they are approachable."

He never took the more controversial pictures that would have made him more money. While other photographers weren't so considerate, and made serious money by photographing celebrities doing newsworthy, but embarrassing, things, Boas gains his celebrities' trust and makes friendships along the way.

Boas numbers Kate Hepburn, a reluctant subject for his camera, among the celebs that he knew well enough to visit with and to talk to by telephone. He sent her shoefly pies when he heard that she liked sweets. In a letter to him about his gift she wrote, "What a peculiar tasting pie! But we all ate it. I hope it wasn't our last dinner!"

Asked who he's never photographed but would like to, Boas says, "Doris Day!" He's tried, but she is reclusive, lives in a gated area, and he's just missed her numerous times.

The last celebrity image he added to his archive was Dodi Goodman, who happened to be performing at the Ephrata Theater, where she had appeared 40 years earlier.

Who was the easiest celebrity to work with? Boas says," It wasn't a celebrity, but a period of time, when studios molded stars. They were acting

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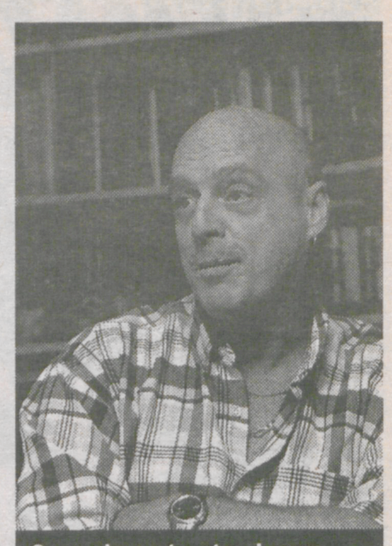

Gary chose to stay home from the Film Awards last spring. "I was on my couch in Lancaster, watching it on TV. People were getting out of a limousine and there I was! Live from Los Angeles!I was on my couch in Lancaster! They were using footage from last year!"

Page 180 from Starstruck. Walking on heels in soft grass, Elizabeth Taylor gets an assist from Gary Boas.

page 220 of Starstruck: Bette Davis and Joan Crawford share the page

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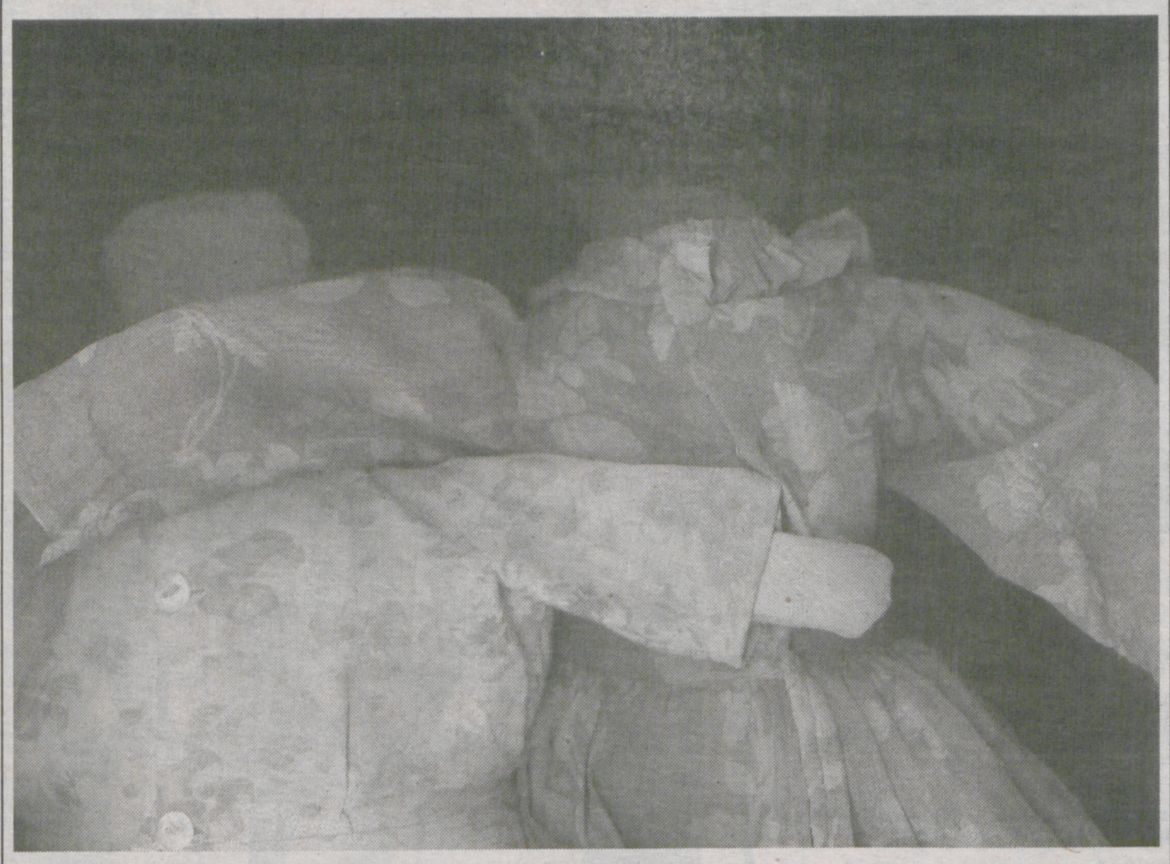

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Personal Planning
Market Yourself First

Forty million Americans now work at home, escaping the prospect that by age 40 they will face their eighth new job and more adjustments.

Folks seem undaunted in their search for control over employment destiny. They represent what former Harvard Business Review editor T. George Harris calls "self management in a culture that increasingly needs it."

Harris issues simple statements about the successfully self-employed. He advises new entrepreneurs to be not money driven, but profit disciplined. And to trust their instincts: being a successful entrepreneur is a function of behavior, not luck. In a world clogged with "how to" books, what's a novice boss to think? After all, if you laid all advice books end-to-end, besides a long distance, they would certainly stretch the truth.

Surprising is how potential financiers may evaluate your idea for employment independence. About 50 percent of their weighting is based on management and marketing plan. Another 25 percent of their weighing rests with your product or services' overall market performance. Until it's soup, the product itself counts for only 15 percent of the scoring. Management contributions are perceived to be about four times greater than the actual product or services.

Why emphasize management? Check out any boxed or over-the-counter product in your local store. Many products are the same sow dressed in different silks. Success or failure depends on how a product or service is managed and marketed. Think of how many mediocre products or services you have seen earn a dollar. If it's not the product, then it must be the marketing, and solid marketing begins with your presentation to potential financiers from whom you want to earn a high "management" rating.

If you plan to use your own money, you still require self-disciplined evaluation. Identify one reason why you shouldn't score yourself as stridently as an outside investor. You can't. Be even tougher; investors pool others' money. Your capital is all you've got.

Your first client is nearer than you think. Imagine that your current corporate function was purchased from outside the organization. Imagine again that functions, which are purchased outside your company, are now purchased from you.

Your company is your new client, as you can provide them consulting and other services they now out-source. Who knows the quality of your work better than those who have rewarded you with raises and bonuses? Combining your current function with your capital, and consolidating existing consultant contracts into your new business forms the foundation on which you build employment independence.

For the sake of service consistency, you may decide to retain a few existing consultants. Subcontracting will allow you to concentrate on and refine your management skills while knowing that quality work is being done. In addition, subcontracting initially will lighten your tax liability in that you are not the sold recipient of all your company's funds.

Other tax advantages involve completely rethinking what is legitimate business versus personal expenses. Expenses while self-

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Personal Planning

Harrisburg Mayor Stephen R. Reed Analyzes Creative Class

by John Fox

With regard to the media sensation caused by Richard Florida's book "The Rise of the Creative Class" and its claim that gays are good for economic development, Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed quips, "That's not all he said."

Last issue Alternative Central's Ted Martin examined Florida's book. In part, the Carnegie-Mellon professor claims that gay and lesbians are good for a region's economy. If it's safe for the lgbt community, it's likely safe for anyone different.

In this issue, AC presents a conversation with Mayor Reed who looks at how Florida's ideas apply to the City of Harrisburg.

One of Florida's claims is that the creative class fuels the present economy. Reed quickly interjects that he is quite familiar with the book. "That's not all he said," Reed points out.

"Florida said the more diverse the population the greater the degree of creativity.

I think that's sociologically supportable and has been supportable in America for the last hundred years," Reed notes. He concurs with Florida's claim, but explains that it's not an unparalleled assertion. "He's written a book on the subject, but sociologists have been tuned into the idea for years."

Reed further explains what makes Florida's research unique.

"What Florida did was connect the diversity of a city to its economic capacity for ingenuity, for reinventing itself economically, and to economic prosperity and expanded investment. In the past, people have never made that direct connection. He did."

Tactics by other cities confirm Reed's observations. For example, Pittsburgh, Memphis, Tampa, Indianapolis, Milwaukee are launching web sites, creating hot zones with WiFi access, and creating fun downtown corridors. "They're going after young people the way cities went after IBM," comments one consultant.

An eclectic mix of education is part of the mix. With the addition of the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology (HUST) in fall of 2005, Harrisburg has a chance to grow exponentially in terms of creativity.

Is there a relationship between Florida's claim and HUST?

"Yes, in the sense that we have a diverse population here," Reed confirms. "We also have a very diverse economy. Our institutions of higher education have not adopted curricula sufficient to meet the current job market needs. Particularly with these highly specialized skilled needs. HUST offers the diverse population opportunities for higher education so that they can fill high paying tech and other high specialty jobs in our workforce."

Reed further explains that, "You cannot have a creative class in Harrisburg, or any other place, if you do not have an institution of higher learning that meets their needs and the workforce development needs of the local economy. HUST will do that." He stresses higher education's role. "If there is not an element of higher education in the community, you'll lose your creative class. They will go somewhere else."

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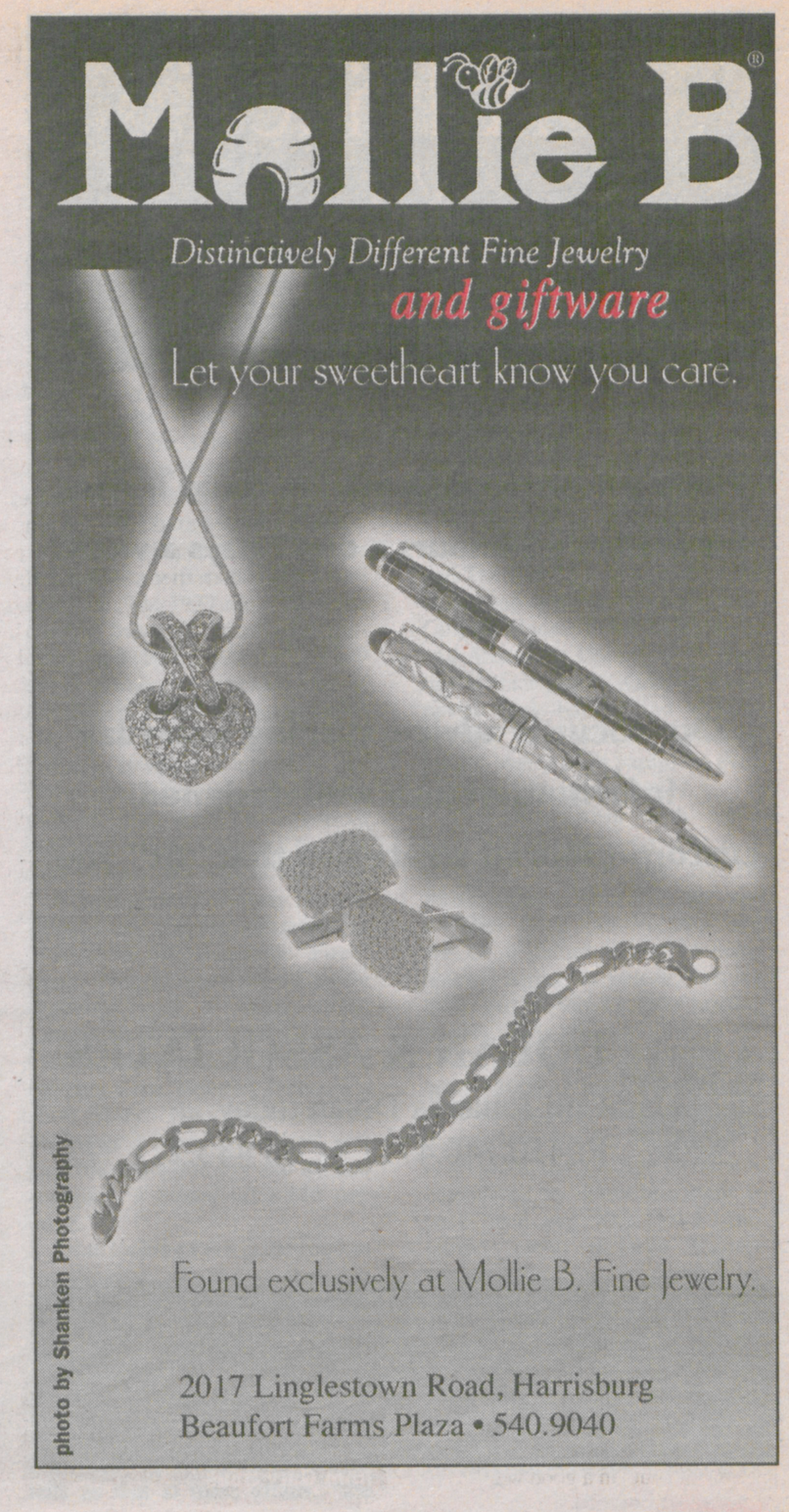
photo by Shawn Skvarna

Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed talks to Alternative Central about the importance of connecting a city's diversity to its economic development and prosperity.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Personal Planning

Women's Alternative Careers Reinforce Independent Lifestyles

By Jennifer Gronwaldt

Are you considering a new career? Maybe you've just started to explore your career options. Fortunately, there are more outstanding careers paths to choose from than ever before.

With tremendous advances in technology, the sector of our economy dedicated to technical careers continues to outpace service and retail areas.

In 2003, over 65 percent of the jobs in our workforce were skilled careers. The great news is that as individuals compare their career options, there is a large demand for employees in technology. The compelling news however, is that a technology-related career offers an especially lucrative and rewarding opportunity for women.

Up until recently, women pursuing a non-traditional career have been on a somewhat unique and occasionally unfriendly path. Fortunately there have been a few critical factors that have caused a shift in the perception of, and demand for, men and women in non-traditional careers. Thankfully, as diversity takes a more meaningful and prominent role with larger employers, the incentive to hire women in technical careers has been spurred.

There is a greater demand for skilled employees in technology-related positions. Employers realize that to recruit capable employees, the pool of qualified applicants must be as wide open as possible - and this includes women and men, regardless of sexual orientation.

So where does that leave a woman considering her options?

It puts her in the driver's seat. Free to resist stereotypes and conformity, women have much to gain from technology careers. In fact, women in technology earn 50 percent more, on average, than women employed in traditional careers, such as child care, retail or human services.

Careers such as architectural drafter, computer network analyst, desktop publisher, and electronics technician often have starting salaries ranging from $28,000-$34,000 a year. Construction careers are also a satisfying pursuit for women with wages between $12-$16 dollars per hour to start out.

The auto industry recently has seen a sharp increase in the number of women in its ranks. Noting that more women than men are automotive customers, the industry recognizes the need to better accommodate the needs and concerns of female customers. Having a greater diversity of employees helps accomplish this type of service.

We know all women don't fit

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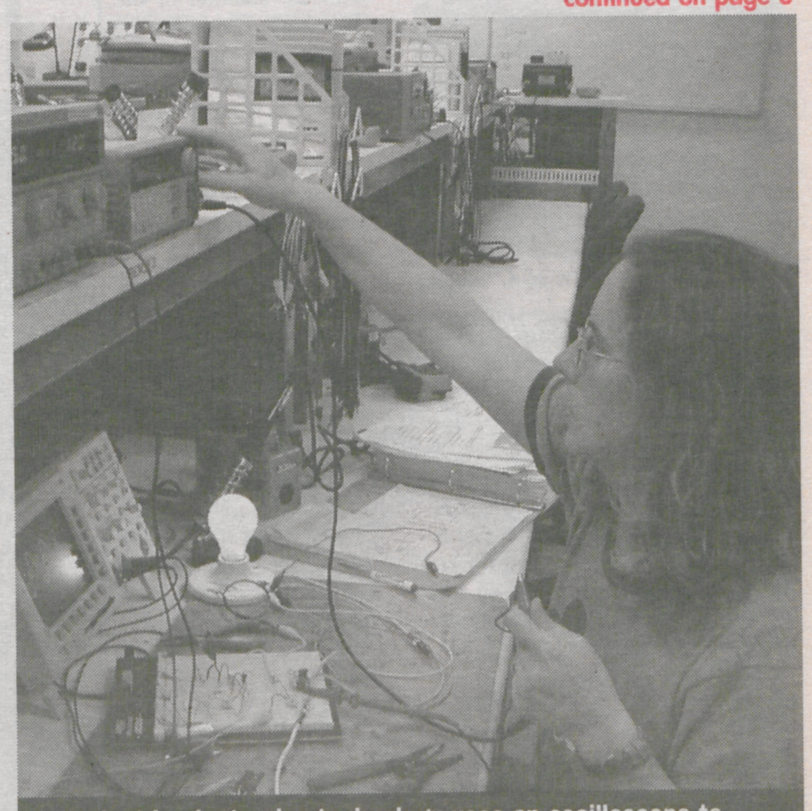

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Lycoming College Hosts LGBT Panel

By Adrienne Mansfield, Correspondent

Gays, Lesbians, or Bisexuals and Allies at Lycoming (GLOBAL), a student advocacy organization affiliated with Lycoming College, held its annual LGBT Panel Discussion in December. Anyone could attend and ask panelists questions on the topic of homosexuality and all things related to it.

"The questions of the panel ranged in subject and seriousness, from what it was like coming out to parents to thoughts on TV characters," said GLOBAL President Heather Zelle.

Panel discussions are a great medium for many collegiate gay and gay-friendly organizations to disseminate information. The panels attempt to dispel myths surrounding homophobia by providing forums for gays and straights to interact in a positive setting.

Besides gay and lesbian panelists, the group hosted an ally – allies are people who aren't gay, but who "ally" themselves with gay struggles - on its panel to field questions

"The ally on the panel this year was, as always, a wonderful addition, and provided a perspective that was perhaps a little easier for much of the audience to initially relate to," Zelle said.

While posters advertising the event were torn down at different campus locations, the response from the student body was overwhelmingly positive. With a good turnout and some very thought provoking questions, the annual GLOBAL discussion was a success.

Market Yourself continued

employed may differ than when you churned your talents for the corporation. Some move to the "business" side of the ledger and become legitimate expenses. For example, printing, postage, and graphic design costs associated with conducting business may be appropriate expenses.

Clothing is another item, and the key is in the nametag rather than the name brand. If the clothes you wear, for safety let's say, can be properly identified, then you may want to discuss with your accountant the basis for a legitimate business expense.

Audio-visual devices and 50 percent of travel and entertainment are also included. Remember, impeccable documentation is the key to maintaining a legitimate set of business expenses. After your business is established, also resolve to protect yourself.

Homeowners' policies typically exclude liabilities stemming from business use of a home. Even though a home-based business owner may find personal computers and office equipment covered under an existing homeowners policy, the limit may only be $2,500, perhaps far below your capital investment.

Basic home enterprise policies cost between $150 and $275 a year, depending on coverage limits. For another $25, policyholders can protect accounts receivable. There are conditions on policy terms. For example, no more than one-third of a residence can be used for business purposes and that portion must be separate and distinct from common household areas. If not the owner, then a designated family member must be on site to run the business, no absent owners allowed.

Finally, the business must have no more than $200,000 annual receipts and can employ no more than two full-time employees, including the owner. Remember, capital investment starts with you.

Creative Class continued

Reed is confident HUST will meet the new workforce development needs of our community and stimulate Harrisburg's creative class. But, what is the creative class's current status in Harrisburg and do we presently have enough of these types of individuals?

"The creative class in Harrisburg has several characteristics," says Reed. "They're part of a 'Back to the City' movement. These are individuals who have absolutely no qualms about buying a house or renting a residential unit within city limits, unlike their parents who were the generation that, in previous decades, took great time, effort, and expense to move. This is the creative class that is re-establishing city neighborhoods, fixing them up and making them look better, and creating the market for small business enterprise like restaurants, retail, taverns, arts, and cultural events and activities.

In effect, Reed says, "They're creating the American city, ironically, in a very traditional way that existed one hundred years ago. The more things change the more they stay the same. We're on a cycle. It's a cyclical process. And, the creative class, which has always come out of the cities in America's past, is very much in the vanguard of reinventing and rebirthing American cities. That's true in Harrisburg and other cities, as well."

With the current trend of young professionals moving back into the Harrisburg city, Reed optimistically asserts that the creative class is alive and well in Pennsylvania's capitol and will only grow with the addition of HUST in the fall of 2005. According to Reed, Florida's claim about the creative class is not only relevant to the City of Harrisburg, but also essential for its economic survival.

Black & Gay in America continued

An objective reading of the historical record- and our everyday experience – demonstrates "common ground" between African Americans, straight or gay, and the rest of the gay community.

In the 1993 book *Fear of a Queer Planet* African American historian Henry Louis Gates claims that the Harlem Renaissance "was surely as gay as it was black." This is probably surprising to many African Americans as well as gays and lesbians.

Society has taught us for years that the leading lights of the Harlem Renaissance -Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Countee Cullen etc. - were all heterosexual. Or at least we were supposed to "think" so.

Guess what? Nothing could be farther from the truth.

As historian A. B. Christa writes in her 2003 book *Gay Voices of the Harlem Renaissance,* scholars have been afraid to link literary value and homosexuality together. We now know better. Every since the 1980s, there have been more explorations of the Harlem Renaissance's gay dimensions. In many cases the key players of the Harlem Renaissance were gay/bisexual/transsexual and utilized homosexuality in their writing, art or performance.

African-American leader Clare Jones spoke at gay civil rights rally last fall.

For instance, take the poets. From their letters and papers, we know that Langston Hughes, Claude McKay and Countee Cullen were gay. Cullen was married twice. But it is very likely that because of pressure from their middle class patrons, many creative gays and lesbians sought refuge in what were called "front marriages," where one spouse was gay and the other one straight.

It is no secret that Countee Cullen and schoolteacher Harold Jackman were so close; one of their friends nicknamed them "Jonathan and David." A prominent married lesbian was blues singer Ma Rainey. Historian Eric Garber claims that "though married the flamboyant entertainer was known to take women as lovers. Her extraordinary song, 'Prove It On Me' speaks directly to the issue of lesbianism. In it she admits to her preference for male attire and female companionship, yet dares her audience to 'prove it' on her."

Unlike people like Hughes and Cullen who were at pains to keep their same-sex preference secret, there were black gays and lesbians during the Harlem Renaissance who were truly "out." Writer Alain Locke, often regarded as one of the "midwives" of the Harlem Renaissance, was openly gay. Gladys Bentley was a 250-pound black lesbian entertainer who performed at the most famous gay-oriented club in Harlem: Harry Hansberry's Clam House. Bentley always dressed in men's clothes and in her nightclub act she sported a white tuxedo and top hat. A gifted pianist, Bentley was outrageous for coining dirty lyrics to current popular songs.

Speaking of music, blues singer Bessie Smith was bisexual and composer Porter Grainger, noted for the blues song T'aint Nobody's Business" was gay. And then there was Bruce Nugent, a handsome black gay who consistently shocked the black bourgeoisie with his erotic drawings reminiscent of Aubrey Beardsley and his openness about his sexuality. His poems also contained gay themes.

In this respect, the Harlem Renaissance writers deserve a second look. The 1927 novel *Home to Harlem* featured a black gay character and Nella Larsen's 1929 novel *Passing* is probably one of the earliest American lesbian novels. Blair Niles's 1931 novel *Strange Brother* is about a gay white man who visits Harlem to pick up black men. The novels of black gay writer Wallace Thurman relate to gay and lesbian life.

A high point of the gay Harlem Renaissance was the appearance in 1926 of the little magazine "Fire!" Bruce Nugent contributed erotic drawings and a short story, Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen published their poems and novelist Zora Hurston featured a short story. The magazine was deliberately avant-garde and was targeted at a white gay and lesbian audience, it folded after just one issue.

From looking back at the Harlem Renaissance, we realize that gay bars and drag shows were not an invention of the disco 1970s; they were around a lot earlier. The most famous Harlem costume balls were held at the Hamilton Lodge, the Rockland Palace and the Savoy Ballroom. Historian Eric Garber tells us that at these affairs, "the highlight of the event was the beauty contest, in which the fashionably dressed drags would vie for the title of 'Queen of the Ball'." George Chauncey in his important book *Gay New York* writes that Harlem's leading newspaper, *The Amsterdam News* "regularly carried pictures of the winning contestants at the Hamilton Lodge ball, New York's biggest drag ball."

While it is true that black gays and lesbians frequented "straight" places such as the mansion of socialite A' Leila Walker or the Savoy Ballroom, they often patronized homosexual establishments too. These clubs included Lulu Belle's, on Lenox Avenue, Blind Charlie's on 110th Street, and The Hot Cha on 132nd Street. Black gay men like Caska Bonds, Clinton Moore, Eddie Manchester and Alexander Gumby threw parties at their places. Gumby was a postal clerk but he had a white patron. This ostensibly enabled him to rent a large studio on Fifth Avenue to host gay parties.

This interaction with white gays and lesbians was central to the gay side of the Harlem Renaissance. Photographer and novelist Carl Van Vechten was sort of a "father figure" to many blacks, acting as patron, helping them professionally, and hosting parties. It is thought that in the 1920s, many young whites, set upon shocking their elders, made an evening pilgrimage to Harlem in search of fun, booze, and sex. It is no secret that George Gershwin, considered by many historians to have been gay, who loved black music, came through Harlem occasionally. On the other hand, the swankier Harlem joints like the Cotton Club catered only to whites and this aroused resentment among Harlem people.

Gay life during the Harlem Renaissance, however, was not without its problems. In their quest

continued on page 9

Personal Planning

The Importance of Comprehensive Wealth Management for Domestic Partners

By Woody Derricks,
Financial Advisor
Wachovia Securities
800-638-0626

For gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals, reaching financial goals frequently present unique challenges. You may be aware of some of the issues that can affect you and your loved ones' financial well being – others may come as a surprise. One thing is clear: when it comes to managing your wealth, it is critical that you understand your options and opportunities – as well as potential obstacles.

If you are in a relationship, the first step is to include your partner. Because many domestic partners maintain separate bank accounts, they feel as though they should plan for the future as individuals. I ask my clients: Do you own your home together? Would you like to pass on a portion of your estate to your partner? If your partner became disabled, would you provide financial support? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then you may want to evaluate your financial future as a couple.

Disparities in age present another hurdle for domestic partners. Frequently, partners may have a difference of 5, 10, 15 or more years between them. Age effects the way we perceive risk with our investments and how we prepare for retirement. Younger investors are more likely to accept ups and downs in the market as they have a longer time horizon. Additionally, they have more time to accumulate funds for their retirement years. For those who find themselves rapidly approaching retirement or who have already retired, the focus shifts from building for retirement to protecting those assets that they have accumulated. Balancing the need to grow with the need to protect can be a daunting task.

Other areas of concern include insurance and estate planning. You should ask yourself several questions: When I pass away, will my partner be entitled to my pension benefits? How can I best protect my partner and myself while I am alive and after I have passed away? As we know, family members do not always look favorably on the relationship and may desire to have your assets for themselves.

Believe it or not, the Tax Code has produced some benefits for domestic partners. Due to the government viewing same-sex couples as individuals, many higher income partners find that they can contribute more to their Roth IRA's, pay taxes at a lower rate, and have more deductions available to them than a married couple with a similar combined income. Work with your financial planner and your tax advisor to identify each of the areas from which you could benefit.

As many look to grow and protect their wealth, they are turning to comprehensive financial planners. Comprehensive financial planners separate themselves from traditional stockbrokers by providing their clients with thorough investment, retirement, tax, and estate planning strategies while developing a long-term relationship. If you are in the market for a comprehensive financial planner, you will want to work with someone who understands your needs, respects your relationship, and, most importantly, someone you can trust.

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Personal Planning

A Look Back

By Derek J. Cordier, Esquire

I recently went back and looked at a paper I wrote in November 1997, during my last term at Rutgers Law School in New Jersey. At that time, the professor I wrote it for asked me to her office. Once there, I was surprised to find that she wanted my permission to read it to future classes.

You will notice that the law has changed dramatically in the last six years and for that we can all be grateful. At the time sodomy was still illegal, Vermont was not in the news, second parent adoptions were not allowed in Pennsylvania and had just become legal in New Jersey. Marriage was rarely mentioned.

My views have also changed somewhat thanks to my lesbian and transgender clients; I would have used lgbt instead of gays and lesbians. I am also not as cynical. The following are excerpts from my article.

Strategic Analysis – Gay & Lesbian Rights or Lack Thereof

Marriage

Everyone should have exactly the same rights. I know this is restating, what should be the obvious, but to gays and lesbians it is not so obvious. Gays and lesbians are the only groups in this country that are legally discriminated against. Gays and lesbians are denied rights in four major areas; marriage, employment, child rearing, and the sodomy laws.

The first area, and for me the most important, is marriage. Many heterosexuals don't get married, but they are not denied the right to get married. Even if gays and lesbians don't believe in the "institution" of marriage we should be fighting for that right. I know domestic partnership laws are an alternative to marriage that would give gays and lesbians the same rights as heterosexuals - except of course to be married. These laws may be a steppingstone to allowing marriage between gays and lesbians, but they still put us in our own lower class - the "unmarried but cohabiting and legally joined."

Marriage has been deemed a fundamental right, but the courts still say it's only a fundamental right for the mainstream idea of marriage within the mainstream idea of family. To have marriage become a right for gays and lesbians would make us a family unit under the law, which would lessen the stereotypical idea that we are abnormal outsiders who do not deserve to be part of the mainstream. Marriage legitimizes us as a group who will not accept anything less than equal rights.

Because marriage is governed by state law, marriage as an issue may have to be fought in every state. One way to fight back may be to get the Defense of Marriage Act struck down because of its probable unconstitutionality due to the Full Faith and Credit Clause. This approach may be easier than fighting in every state. If the current approach is the way things go and some states, such as Hawaii (hopefully), allow gay marriage and some do not, those that do, will become gay havens. Once again segregating us from the mainstream.

Furthermore, marriage would solve many of the problems associated with gay and lesbian parenting. If marriage took place before having a child there would be no nonlegal parent and both parents would have the same rights and responsibilities. Also, joint adoption would not be a problem.

Marriage is the most important right we are denied and the most important right we should be fighting for. Until we have the fundamental right of marriage how do we expect to be legitimized as a minority in this society who deserve and demands the protections afforded every other minority?

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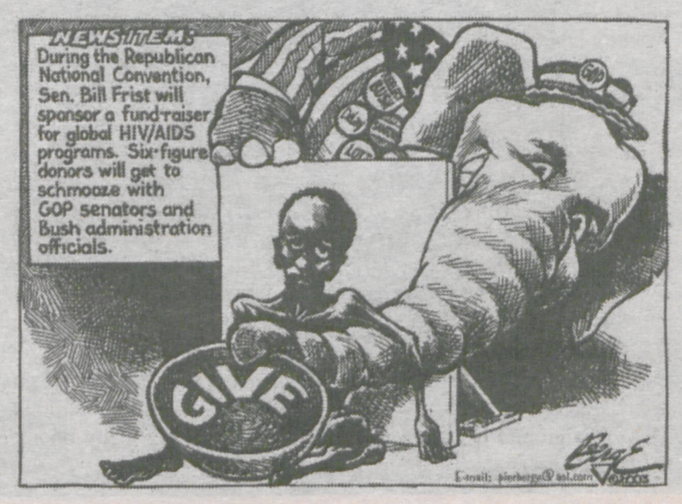

NEWS ITEM:
During the Republican National Convention, Sen. Bill Frist will sponsor a fund-raiser for global HIV/AIDS programs. Six-figure donors will get to schmooze with GOP senators and Bush administration officials.
GIVE

Gary Boas continued

from the moment they got up. Now Tom Hanks is just Tom Hanks. They're not grounded in their image, their aura. It got harder when they stopped molding stars."

Boas archive of images represents a bygone era, when stars were still seen as fabulous and fans were adoring, not potentially dangerous to them. He misses the days when actors played "celebrity" for their fans. Boas' example of current attitudes is Natalie Portman when she said, "acting is more of a hobby for me." Of actors who view acting as a hobby, he says, "They should collect stamps!"

Of photographing celebrities now, he says. "Yes, I'm still doing it, but in the 80's it changed. Stars are reluctant. They question. There is eBay. If you're waiting in line with 10 fans to photograph someone, seven are dealers."

"I don't know that I'll pursue this as I did," Gary said after describing the changes that have occurred in recent years. He said he had a "senior moment" recently. He chose to stay home from the Film Awards this last spring. "I was on my couch in Lancaster, watching it on TV. People were getting out of a limousine and there I was! 'Live from Los Angeles!' I was on my couch in Lancaster! They were using footage from last year!"

Since 1999 Boas has given 280 interviews. Sofia Coppola, director-screenwriter daughter of Francis Ford Coppola, and photographer Mario Testino collect his work. Of his own celebrity now as an archivist of celebrity, he says wryly, "I'm reliving it more than I did then. I was always thinking about the camera and the flash. I was so busy living it, I missed it!" He also says, "I'm 52 now. Write fast!" Boas' book is available at Barnes & Noble.

Ginny Caputo is an antiques dealer, freelance photojournalist, and fine art photographer with a studio in Lancaster.

Womens Alt. Career continued

cookie-cutter molds; and some women will thrive in hands-on, task-oriented work. Technology offers a satisfying venue for problem solvers, team players, the creative, and those interested in an ever-changing work environment. Taking pride in constructing a finished product, engineering a solution to a production flaw, or using a skill to help others are just some of the rewarding benefits of these careers.

There is a great deal of support for women in technical careers, in just the past three years the Internet has become busy with sites focused on women in technology. Womentechworld.org hosts profiles of women in various technology and trade jobs. The women profiled encourage others to explore technology, and do so, by candidly sharing stories and advice.

Over 30 websites dedicated to technology, women, and career planning are listed on the website for the Women's Center at Thaddeus Stevens College of technology at ww.stevenscollege.edu/women. Locally, more and more women are finding Stevens College in Lancaster as a helpful resource in pursuing careers in technology.

As our society continues to evolve, the need for individual economic independence deepens. We are in a better position to take advantage of freedom to pursue a lifestyle of choice when we are not bogged down by financial worries and unpleasant jobs.

Jennifer Gronwaldt is the Women's Center Director at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, where she has counseled women exploring career options since 2000.

FAB continued

church to the gay community.

"Youth need to feel supported in the struggles as young gays and lesbians. Common Roads and its Center, also home to the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard, FAB, Alternative Central, and the civil rights group SPARC, provides a place where people can be themselves and get involved," said Jared Roberts. He was the first recipient of the YEA! Award – Youth, Excellence in Advocacy.

Roberts co-wrote "One Day", a play promoting tolerance and diversity. The play received a Dianna, Princess of Wales grant. He played the part of "Sebastian" in the play. The project toured schools and included "talk back" sessions with students and staff.

A one-time employee of Common Roads, Roberts also worked with the Pennsylvania Young Adult Roundtables (YARTS) program where he helped to evaluate HIV prevention measures aimed at teenagers. Currently, Roberts works as an Outreach Coordinator for AIDS Community Alliance.

"Let's help each other create 'safe space' in which our brothers and sisters feel comfortable coming out," said award recipient Frank Pizzoli, publisher and editor of Alternative Central. The group acknowledged his many years of service to HIV/AIDS issues, his having founded Positive Opportunities, for which all work is performed "pro bono", and his speaking and publishing activities around the country on gay health issues.

Pizzoli's articles appear nationally in Instinct, POZ, Press Pass Q, and in New York Blade News, and The Washington Blade.

The FAB 2003 Committee was comprised of Don Blyler III, Jennifer Ellis, Peggy Lichty, Carol Reisinger, Marc-Caroll Rigel, Kelly Shook, Kiz Smith, Luci Stone, Jennifer Storm, and Jeff Welshans.

Volunteers included Matthew Bailey, Ebony Bates, Natalie Blue, Mary Kohut, John Myers, Katrina Scott, Barbie Sunderlin, Charlie Smith, and Ken Worley.

Alternative Central freelance editors and writers Michael Chapaloney, left, and Lisa Granite, right, chat it up with comedienne Suzanna Westenhoefer at FAB, the first large group to host an event at Strand Capitol Performing Arts Center, York. All proceeds from the program advertising and the "Silent Auction" portion of the evening benefit regional lgbt organizations.

Lesbian NOTATIONS

Queer Year in Review

by Paula Martinac

With all the high-profile gay triumphs of the past year, it's clear we'll be talking about 2003 for a long time. After all, it was the year of "Lawrence v. Texas", of Bishop Gene Robinson, and of the Massachusetts marriage decision. However, there were many other significant news stories that didn't grab headlines, but that hold great hope for the ultimate success of the gay movement.

1. With the historic news from Canada and Massachusetts about gay marriage, it was easy to overlook a significant domestic partnership measure that passed this year. In November, the citizens of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, overwhelmingly voted in favor of creating a local domestic partners registry. What's the big deal? The registry was created through a voter initiative, not by the city council, marking the first time ever that a pro-gay ballot initiative passed anywhere in the country. Usually gay organizations and activists are expending resources fighting off the ubiquitous "antigay" ballot initiatives that have plagued our community. But the local group Heights Families for Equality, with support from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), built a coalition of both gay and straight volunteers and took the important issue of lesbian and gay family recognition directly to the people of Cleveland Heights - and won.

2. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund scored a major triumph and garnered a lot of publicity last June when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws. But Lambda Legal wins smaller cases all the time, and these may also have wide ramifications. Just this fall Lambda successfully settled a suit against the State of Georgia and the United Methodist Children's Home in Decatur. The Methodist home had been using state taxpayer dollars for its social-service work, then discriminating in its hiring policies against both gay people and Jews. The settlement - in which the state agreed not to fund religious groups that discriminate and the home committed to a nondiscrimination policy - will have a significant impact on the debate over President Bush's controversial and problematic "faith-based initiatives."

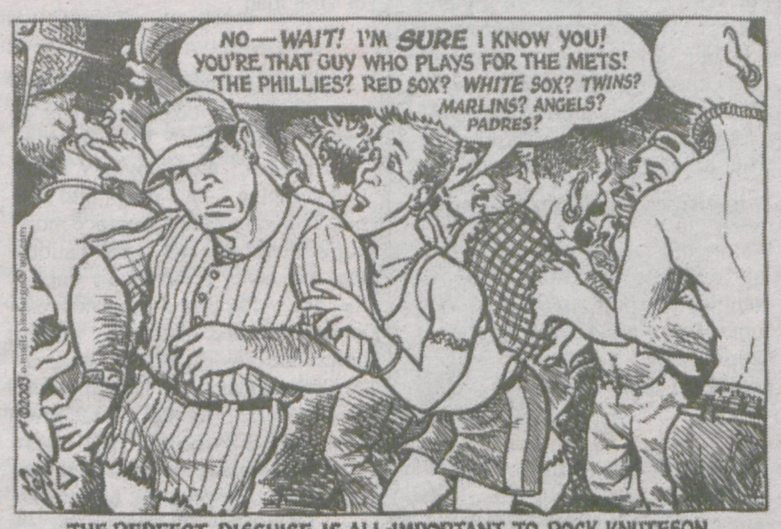
3. You may have read about another Lambda suit, the employment discrimination case against Cirque du Soleil filed this summer on behalf of Matthew Cusick, an HIV-positive gymnast. But Lambda had a much smaller HIV-related triumph this year. After Cecil Little, a 50-year-old Louisiana stroke victim, was discharged from the hospital, six nearby nursing homes turned him down for admittance because he is HIV-positive. Little had to enter a home 160 miles away, making it difficult for family members to visit him. Faced with a Lambda suit and an investigation from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, one of the six facilities finally agreed to admit Little - a small, personal victory for him and his family. But Lambda sees nursing-home discrimination as a growing national problem, one that will become more acute as people with HIV continue to live longer and gay baby boomers reach their senior years.

4. There's been a lot of attention paid to polls showing African Americans overwhelmingly opposed to same-sex marriage rights because of religious beliefs. But we hear almost nothing when important alliances are formed between the African-American and gay communities. This past summer, on the 40th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C., NGLTF executive director Matt Foreman was called on to speak at the rally on behalf of the GLBT community. This historic invitation recognized the important role that Bayard Rustin, a gay man, played in organizing the 1963 March on Washington.

5. The introduction of the Republican-sponsored Federal Marriage Amendment into Congress may make us forget that we have staunch allies on both sides of the aisle. This fall Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) joined Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) to introduce a bipartisan resolution condemning human-rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The resolution would augment the Universal Declaration of Human Rights passed by the United Nations in 1948 - a policy ignored in scores of countries around the globe when it comes to GLBT people, who may be imprisoned, tortured, or even executed simply for having consensual adult sex. This attempt to extend the resolution to include queer people is recognition that "the United States has a tremendous responsibility to speak out and protect those who may not be able to protect themselves," said a Human Rights Campaign spokesperson.

These are just five stories many of us missed while we were celebrating the year's landmarks. They indicate that the geography of gay rights is made up not just of incredible peaks, but of many smaller hills that also offer a view to the future.

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.



THE PERFECT DISGUISE IS ALL-IMPORTANT TO ROCK KNUTESON, CLOSETED GAY FOOTBALL STAR.

Black & Gay in America continued

to "be themselves," gays and lesbians sometimes incurred the wrath of society. For instance, in a well-publicized incident, novelist Wallace Thurman was arrested in a 135th St. subway restroom for having sex with a white hairdresser. His professional reputation was never the same afterwards.

Civil rights activist Granville Dill who was the business manager of the NAACP's journal The Crisis was fired from his job when W.E.B Du Bois learned that Dill had been arrested for solicitation in a public restroom. When his marriage to the daughter of W.E.B. Du Bois floundered, Countee Cullen sailed away for Europe with his best man, Harold Jackman. The Harlem press bubbled over with rumors about Cullen's sexuality, causing him much pain and embarrassment. Yolande Du Bois filed for divorce, telling her father that Cullen's homosexuality was the cause of the marriage's failure.

All in all, the Harlem Renaissance was to some extent gay. That does not mean that all the creative people involved, be it writers, artists, dancers, socialites, musicians, were gay. But it does mean that in order fully to understand the Harlem Renaissance as a historical and cultural era in American history, its gay dimensions must be acknowledged.

Eric Ledell Smith is a freelance writer and historian of African American history. He has published four books and he is now working on a biography of a Harlem Renaissance figure.

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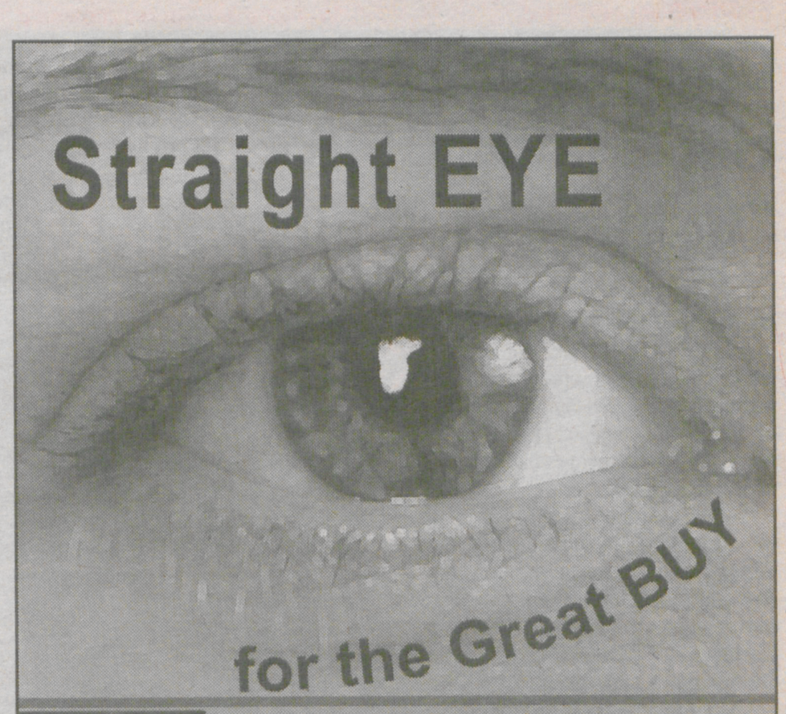

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Stay in the HIV Race with Lower Viral Load

By Frank Pizzoli

The goal of HIV therapy isn't to reach the finish line as fast as possible. The goal is to stay in the race as long as possible.

Staying in the race, and maintaining overall good health, involves careful choice of HIV medications when beginning or changing treatment. In clinical terms, HIV therapy's ultimate goal is to preserve as many healthy CD4 cells as possible by lowering Viral Load (VL) for as long as possible.

How HIV Works

HIV multiplies in the bloodstream and then attacks CD4 or "helper" cells that fight off infection.

If HIV infiltrates and ultimately destroys enough CD4 cells, you become prone to "opportunistic infections" (OI). The infections are called "opportunistic" because without enough CD4 cells, your body can't even fight ordinary, every-day, garden-variety infectious agents (such as parasites, other viruses, and bacteria) that are normally present in the body. Some OIs, like pneumonia, can be life threatening. Others, like chronic rashes, require tedious care. Choosing courses of treatment that best preserve, maybe even boost CD4 cells, helps keep away nasty infections.

CD4 cells are preserved by keeping VL as low as possible for as long as possible. Based on blood tests that measure your CD4 cell count and your VL, you'll know how well your HIV meds are working—or when you should start treatment.

Undetectable is success

The Federal Government Guidelines for treating HIV say that successful control of VL is the one of the strongest predictors of long-term outcome. Ultimately, you want your VL to diminish to "undetectable". That means a blood test indicates the level of virus in your bloodstream measures below "50". Do not despair if your VL drops, for example, from 100,000, but stays above "50".

But do realize that getting and keeping your VL as low as possible is paramount. And for most patients initially starting therapy, it's often possible to keep HIV below 50.

Staying in the race

The obvious question is: How does one reduce VL and thereby protect infection-fighting cells? For starters, by taking drug combinations that keep VL as low as possible for as long as possible. First, know that HIV medications are never taken alone. They are taken in combinations selected from at least two of five different drug classes. Second, realize it's one thing to achieve a lower VL. It's another to sustain that lowering over time. Although most combinations initially lower VL, some drugs are simply better at keeping VL lower for longer periods of time.

Know your combinations

Here's shorthand for the different HIV drug classes from which "combinations" are selected: There are two types of nukes, non-nukes, protease inhibitors, and fusion inhibitors. Combinations should include at least 3 different drugs. For initial therapy, the Federal Government recommends certain "preferred" drugs for a combination of either two nukes plus a protease inhibitor or two nukes plus a non-nuke.

In chart form, you'd see 23 choices of medicine made from 19 different compounds. The additional choices are actually combinations of two or three of the 19 compounds. Although there are 23 meds, the number of effective combinations that you can choose is limited. Therefore, you'll want to choose drugs that will not only reach your goal of undetectable as fast as possible, but that will keep HIV as low as possible for as long as possible. That's also exactly what the new federal guidelines stress: "Treatment goals should be maximal and durable suppression of viral load".

Pill burden

The number of pills and how frequently they're taken each day is called "pill burden". To lower your "pill burden," there are HIV meds that combine 2 or 3 drugs into one pill. This can make adherence more convenient. So can combinations that are taken fewer times during the day. Although dosing convenience is a nice quality in a drug combination—especially once-a-day convenience—it isn't the best or only reason to choose one drug over another. "Convenience" doesn't automatically make a regimen effective at keeping VL low for as long as possible. The true measure of success is how long your VL stays undetectable.

In fact, recent Federal Government Guidelines noted a major concern about once-daily therapy over "the paucity (lack of) of long-term trials with comparison to potent twice daily regimens."

Side effects

In addition to the number of pills and how well and for how long they keep HIV undetectable, you'll want to consider possible side effects and drug interactions. Because of the way some drugs interact with others, certain HIV drugs should never be taken together. In fact, you should make sure your doctor knows everything you're taking, including vitamins and recreational drugs. Interactions are a big deal.

As far as side effects, all HIV drugs can cause them. But the fewer and milder the side effects, the better. Keep in mind that this is a very individual thing. Side effects vary from drug to drug, and even among different individuals taking the same drug. So consider your lifestyle. For example, if you have a job where you have to be mentally alert, drugs that make it hard to concentrate may not be right for you.

Food fight

There are also the issues of food requirements. Some HIV drugs have a food requirement which means they are taken with or without food, or with particular types of food. Some drugs have easier food rules than others. For example, some nukes have no food restrictions, but others must be taken with meals. Non-nuke drugs have no restrictions. And depending on the drug, protease inhibitors are taken with or without food.

Some HIV drugs have no food restrictions and are taken at meal time, almost like a built in reminder when to take them. But having to take one drug with food and another without food can be a hassle. With or without food requirements, the main goal is to pick drugs that will keep your VL as low as possible for as long as possible.

Adherence and Resistance

All medicines work to some degree, but only if you take them. Remember being warned to finish all your antibiotics because stopping prematurely allows the rash to return? Same result with HIV drugs, only it's called "resistance".

Resistance to your HIV meds means your drugs can no longer fight off the virus. This can happen if the HIV virus evolves in such a way that it enables new copies of itself to survive in the presence of the drugs you're taking. Missing doses can result in the amount of medicine in your blood dropping below levels needed to control the virus. Uncontrolled, the virus will then be free to invade infection-fighting CD4 cells. As more and more CD4 cells are destroyed, you are much more likely to develop opportunistic infections. This "chain reaction" concerns the Federal Government, which notes that "missing one [once-daily] dose may result in inadequate drug exposure over a defined period of time leading to a higher probability of the development of drug resistance."

To avoid resistance, research indicates HIV drugs must be taken 95 percent of the time. Even if taken 95 percent of the time, some people still develop resistance. And even with less than perfect adherence, resistance doesn't always develop. The point is that some HIV drugs are "more forgiving" and others "less forgiving" if you miss doses. Try to pick drugs with a good track record at keeping HIV undetectable and avoiding resistance.

Effective, not easy

When initially starting HIV therapy or switching regimens, it's

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Profile

Candace Gingrich Heads Human Rights Campaign "Coming Out" Project

By Michael Chapaloney

Candice Gingrich's career as a lesbian and gay rights activist was primarily launched as a byproduct of her half brother's 1995 rise to the speakership in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Today solid atop a foundation of inspiration and purpose, Gingrich continues to work everyday to reach out to the lgbt community as the Human Rights Campaign's National "Coming Out" project manager.

Gingrich's 1996 autobiography, "The Accidental Activist," was a best seller in the lesbian and gay community. Her story has appeared in the pages of most major newspapers, national magazines and on television. Now she talks through *Alternative Central* directly to a region she used to call home.

Born in Baltimore to Robert and Kathleen Gingrich, she has two sisters, Susan Gingrich and Roberta Brown. The family often moved due to Robert's career in the U.S. Army, living in California, Kansas, Maryland and Panama before settling in Harrisburg. Her elder half brother Newt grew up primarily in Georgia.

Gingrich was graduated in 1984 from Central Dauphin East High School and then from Indiana University of Pennsylvania earning a bachelor's degree in sociology. Returning to Harrisburg after college she worked as a computer technician for the state Department of Education and at the United Parcel Service.

Alternative Central: What was it like coming out so publicly?

Candace Gingrich: I don't feel it was a transforming experience. More people now knew something. The weirdness factor was the numbers. I never felt threatened, intimidated; for the most part all were supportive.

AC: How did your career goals change when you were offered the job at the HRC?

CG: Had no idea this was going to last…I don't think of it as a career, it became my chosen path. Now I travel around doing town hall meetings. I hadn't been in front of the media before. I never liked speaking in public. There was a matter of getting used to it.

AC: What are the major challenges of the gay community?

CG: I hope someday it's not a challenge. Apathy is one of the biggest; lgbt folks who are not out. People who in their lives don't get a chance to know who they are, they don't vote or understand the power and importance of action.

Another issue is education. Several people are out to their straight family, but that doesn't mean the family understands that your partner is denied benefits. We need to challenge the ignorance that still exists. We need people who know gays. People aren't born hating, fearing, they have a fear of the unknown.

AC: Is the recent appointment of a gay bishop in the Episcopal Church and welcoming sign to the community?

CG: It's huge. Parallel to the first time a woman was ordained. It is something for me to only observe since I'm not a member of the Episcopal faith. I hope there will not be a huge rift. To me it's progress.

AC: Do you have advice for those who struggle with conflicts between their religion and their sexual orientation?

CG: More and more denominations are welcoming and affirming. Folks can find the lgbt organizations. Some organizations are purely supportive, others are activists. These organization make sure we don't leave and that we feel welcome.

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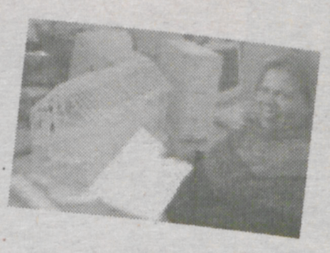

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J. A. Sharp Custom Jeweler Works for Perfect Fit

By Ted Martin

Employment statistics reveal that over a lifetime of work most workforce members will change careers nearly seven times. Obviously, the legions of bureaucrats gathering such data have not crossed paths with Jude Sharp of Lancaster's J. A. Sharp Custom Jeweler.

When asked how long she's designed and made custom jewelry, Jude's answers, "For most of my adult life."

"I've been doing this since 1972," Sharp explained. "I opened my first store in Denver, Colorado; then I had a store in Park City, Utah. When I moved back to Pennsylvania in 1976, I opened a store in Lititz (Sharp Jewelers). I also opened Sharp Jewelers in Lancaster with Sue Martin in 1984, and we sold that business in 2001. I immediately opened J. A. Sharp Custom Jeweler in April 2001. Sylvia Weaver, my life and business partner joined me in the business in 2002."

Sharp is a rarity - someone whose life and career seem like a natural fit.

"I made my first piece while I was a student at Temple University's Tyler College of Art (this was in the late '60's). I guess it was a ring; I can't remember. Actually, the first metalwork I remember was a piece of bronze I forged into a jelly jar spoon! I had it silver-plated and gave it to my parents. I think my dad still has it."

Sharp's business is often very personal, and it's her strong commitment to the needs of her clients that have brought them back to her shop time and again.

"I create commissioned pieces for customers from scratch. This means I sit down with them, listen to them and create a sketch of the desired finished piece. I then fabricate the piece from metal or carve a wax model, which is then cast in the desired metal to become the finished piece. I don't just pull findings from a catalog and put them together, unless that's what the client wants."

She is also the jeweler people seem to turn to when the request takes some compassion and special care.

"A customer of mine had a prosthetic finger," she remembers. "She wanted a ring to cover the seam where the artificial finger met her hand. I designed and made a lovely ring that did just that."

Rolling care, sensitivity and creativity into one unique work ethic, Sharp is always looking to create just the right piece for clients.

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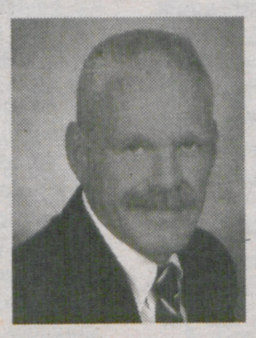

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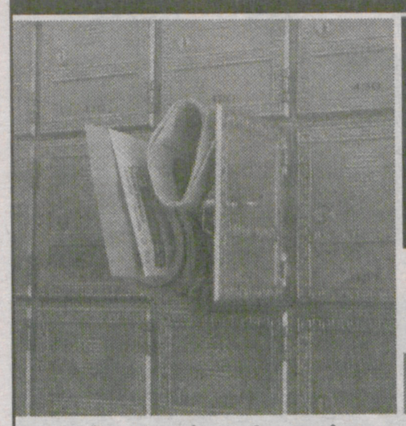

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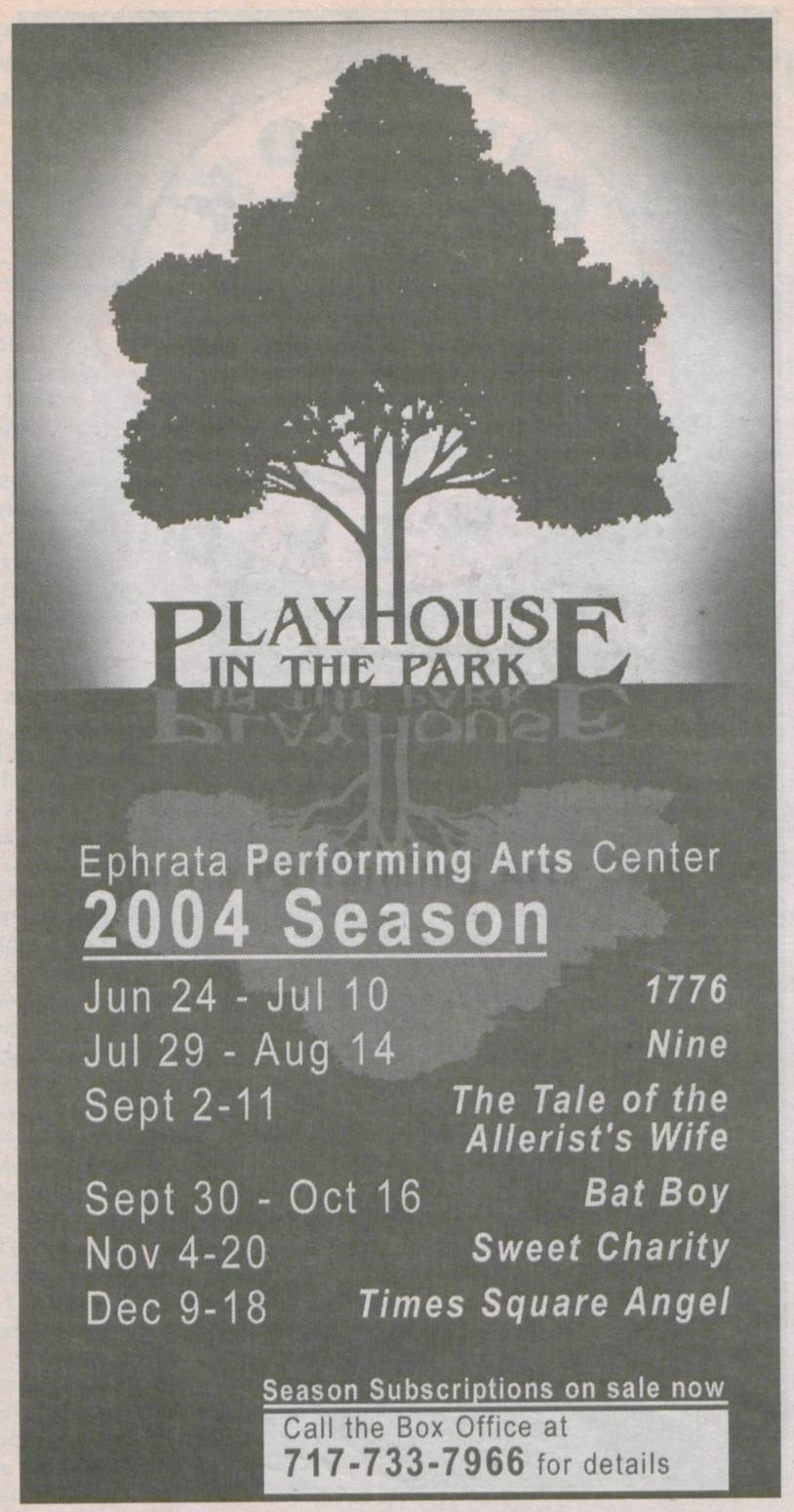
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From former central PA resident and current Human Rights Campaign activist Candace Gingrich (former US House Speaker Newt Gingrich's sister) - I have checked out the copies you've given me and I am very excited about *Alternative Central*, and particularly happy to see the visibility of people of color. Good stories, good correspondents, good coverage of a wide variety of issues. Yay for central PA's first lgbt paper!

The article was terrific - very warm and personal!

Great story! Thanks for the Harrisburg Young Professionals tag.

Amazing job. Kudos.

Thanks for all you do, to make us aware and to make our awareness active!

Hooray for Massachusetts! Finally, the issue of gay marriage gets some fair treatment. Here's hoping that more and more states realize that denying this right to the lgbt community is discrimination, plain and simple.

Someone please explain to me how conservatives can call marriage "sacred" with a straight face (no pun intended). You'd think that more people wanting to get married would be a good thing. Divorce is more common than keeping one's original vows these days, but it's the queers who will sully this sacred institution? Please! Heteros have made it damn near meaningless all on their own.

By renouncing his vocation and leaving the Episcopal Church because he disagreed with the installation of openly gay Bishop V. Gene Robinson, Cleveland priest William Tumbleson did the right thing. No organization based on the preservation of human dignity needs a "priest" like him. If he decided one day that interracial marriage was wrong based on a biblical interpretation, he would have been hounded out the church. They wouldn't have waited for him to decide on his own.

I hear lots of bitching from older gay guys about being lonely after 40. Volunteer, find new passions, and have interests outside of posing and preening at bars with 25-year-olds. We have to not buy into the youth-centric world. Think about it next time you find yourself ignoring guys your own age.

I'm a 70-yeear-old gay man, and some things never seem to change. Queens were bitching about the same things 50 years ago.

Guys with HIV aren't the only ones who owe it to their sex partners to reveal their status. If you've got anything contagious, from an STD to a cold sore or the common cold, either don't have sex or let the other guy know. Isn't that how you'd want other guys to behave?

We need "no smoking" areas outside Harrisburg buildings. I hate getting hit in the face with a cloud of smoke leaving the Fitness Firm gym in Strawberry Square. Why can't the smokers have a space away from main entrances?

Stay in the HIV Race continued

important to choose a drug combination that will keep your VL undetectable for the long-term regardless. It's not about the number of pills daily. It's about how well they work. Don't trade off "today's convenience" for "tomorrow's effectiveness".

Frank Pizzoli writes for Instinct, POZ, Body Positive, New York Blade News, Washington Blade, and founded nonprofit Positive Opportunities (PosOps@aol.com), offering educational seminars and benefits counseling to HIV-infected people supported by Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Greater Harrisburg Foundation, and AIDS Community Alliance.

The Women's Circle continued

consist of a potluck dinner and a facilitated group discussion of a specific subject, such as coming out, family/parenting, women's music or discrimination. Planned topics for future meetings include union ceremonies, growing old with grace and wisdom, lesbian history and the needs of lesbian women of color.

In addition to these meetings, TWC hosted its second fall retreat in September 2003. Held at the YMCA Camp Shand in Cornwall, Lancaster County, the retreat brings together lesbians of all ages for a weekend of activity and bonding. Themed "Peace and Healing," the 2003 retreat offered attendees the chance to explore those issues individually and as a community.

"[Feelings about some of these issues have] nothing to do with being a lesbian, but I think part of our goal at these retreats is to have a few things that have nothing to do with being a lesbian," Skillman explained. "We provide an oppor-

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Theatre Roundup

Open Stage of Harrisburg – Try Something Different

There's no doubt about it. Downtown Harrisburg has become an exciting place to be. Today there's a host of wonderful restaurants and exciting night spots thanks to a restaurant renaissance that shows no sign of slowing down.

But even the most elegant dining spot or intimate night club can begin to seem like the same old thing unless you mix it up a bit. So why not try something that's involving, thought provoking and just plain fun – a play at Open Stage of Harrisburg, our own regional professional theatre.

Those "in the know" have already found Open Stage in its cozy, intimate spot on the street level of the Walnut Street Parking Garage. It's just steps away from the best dining and clubbing in the region, which makes a show easy to include in a special night out. And the offerings this season make the perfect choice when you're looking for something a little more special than drinks and conversation.

Open Stage often includes plays in its season that are of special interest to the lgbt community such as The Laramie Project, Angels in America, and Gross Indecency: The Three Trails of Oscar Wilde. This year's season offers plays that celebrate diversity and deal with the oppression of people labeled "different."

Performance, Poetry, Combine

From January 30-February 14, Open Stage presents the Court street Poetry Jam. Modeled after Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam, it's currently being developed by local poets, performers, hip hop MCs, Diane Hetes, and Open Stage Artistic Director Don Alsedek, based on the theme "America: Seasoned and Raw."

Emily Dickinson's "Wild Nights"

After Court Street Jam, Open Stage takes a different look at poetry and life. The Belle of Amherst which runs from March 5 -March 21 tells the story of Emily Dickinson, America's best-known woman poet . And if you think you know her work – and her life – from high school English class, you're in for quite a surprise. "Wild nights" is just one of the poems that shows how surprising a person Emily Dickinson really was.

"Mockingbird" sees bigotry through child's eyes

Open Stage examines the effects of bigotry on a black man wrongfully accused of a heinous crime and a shy recluse who is grievously misunderstood. This thoughtful dramatization of Harper Lee's classic To Kill a Mockingbird runs from April 23-May 9 and brings to life the noble but self-effacing lawyer Atticus Finch and his little daughter, Scout.

The Distaff Side.

Not at all written by "dead white men," each June, Open Stage brings to Harrisburg some of the nation's best women playwrights and performance artists for a festival of explosive wit and power from the feminine point of view. In the past, audiences have joined Sara Felder as she planned her traditional Jewish Lesbian wedding, experienced the pitfalls and promise of dating with Karen Gray as Eleven Ex-Boyfriends Defend Their Actions, and learned what it's like to be outside the norm with Irene O'Garden's Fat Girl. This year's bill is sure to be as diverse as in years past and it all begins June 3.

The Diary of Anne Frank

The most popular show in Open Stage's 18-year history comes back for a single public performance at Whitaker Center on Sunday, March 21 at 8:00 PM. Bring a friend and experience Anne Frank's triumph of the spirit for yourself. This is a true story we must never allow the world to forget.

A Great Evening Out

You can come downtown for an evening of drinks, dining, dancing and conversation.

Or you can come downtown to Open Stage for an evening that will keep you talking for weeks. Try it once, you'll go back again. It's the perfect destination for a perfect night on the town.

J. A. Sharp continued

"I give an estimate to the customer once we establish the design, and determine the stones and metal to be used. However, the final charges are based on time and materials (just like an auto mechanic). I'm usually pretty accurate in my estimates, although I have been known to eat it at times."

"We have four display cases full of my work, and I'm always working on commissioned pieces for clients. We have items on display ranging in price from $15 (a small silver Lambda) to over $3,000 (a gorgeous, 14k gold ring with three diamonds). Most of the pieces I do are in gold and platinum. And I

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Theatre Roundup

Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center: See RENT, Audition

By Yawana J. Wilmer, House Manager

Entertainment Anyone?

For months now, the newly renovated Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center has been the talk of the town. A facility must be viewed with the human eye, and not merely discussed at the dinner table or local pub.

Big City Appeal

Take me, for example, I uprooted myself from New York, the so-called "Big City," to York, to take a first hand look for myself. "Why did you move from New York to York"? is the big question that I have been bombarded with from patrons, and co-workers. My response to them, "This place is gorgeous, take a look around, watch a performance, and get back to me".

The newly renovated Strand-Capitol theater has everything from a new concession stand and bar in the extended lobby area, hand woven carpet, and great works of art from the infamous Hungarian painter Willy Pogany. The rest you will have to see for yourself. I must admit all the excitement should not only be about the facility itself, but the astonishing performances produced within. The Strand-Capitol staff prides itself with promoting cultural diversity in the season line up.

Now that I have your attention and curiosity about our grand facility, let's talk about what is coming up in the next couple of months.

Auditions

For those of you who sing in the shower, or practice your comedian act at home in your living room, we are hosting Showtime at the Apollo Auditions on Jan.11 from noon to 2 p.m. for minors, and 2 to 4 p.m. for adults. Could there be a better way for you to pave the road to the world famous Apollo Stage in Harlem, New York?

RENT

If you don't want to be the center of attention, and just want to sit back and be entertained, Strand-Capitol is proud to present the world renowned Broadway tour of RENT on January 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. The show promotes that everyone should live life to the fullest. This musical is known to leave its' viewers walking away with a different perspective on life.

If our Apollo auditions or the tour of RENT doesn't have you on the edge of your seat, there is always room to get in touch with the art of spirituality with the "breathtaking fusion of acrobatics and martial arts" through the performance of Chi on Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Don't take my word for it; our season lineup speaks well for itself. Get off the couch and investigate! Even better, make a night out of it. Invite a friend or two, and stop by our new concession stand and bar, taste one of our delicious cheese plates, and perhaps a glass of wine. The choice is yours. We hope to see you soon.

J. A. Sharp continued

still enjoy hand-forging pieces on my anvil in my studio. My forged bracelet cuffs are steady sellers, and making them provides a nice change from wax-carving and stone-setting."

While not catering exclusively to the lgbt community, J. A. Sharp Custom Jeweler has built a reputation of understanding certain basic needs that have made them popular with this clientele.

"It is important to us to provide a comfortable place for gay couples to shop," Sharp explained. "And we very much appreciate the support of our gay clientele. It's very rewarding to work with gay couples on commitment rings, for instance, and no one has to give a second thought to being self-conscious or explaining why two women or two men want to give each other rings in the first place." At Sharp's establishment, all of that is understood. It's important that her business have good working relationships with customers. "Many come back to us time and time again, so we feel like we have a lot of friends as well as clients, Sharp notes."

As a gay business person Sharp knows that patronizing other gay-owned and operated businesses is the strongest support the entire lgbt community can lend. But, she will tell anyone that it's still hard work, regardless of who you love or live with, that makes business ventures successful.

"I've been a business person in the downtown Lancaster scene for a long time, and we're treated with respect, both as a couple and a business. The fact that we're running a successful business, and have for a long time, counts for a lot," Sharp concluded.

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Becoming a Better Homsexual

By Hayden Shelley

I'm always being asked the question, what words of advice do you have for today's gay youth? I don't know why this question seems to be so popular with interviewers, but it's one that usually makes me pause to think more so than any other question. I don't know whether it's that I would very much like to have the answers to everything, to lay out the manual and say " this is how it should be done!" but, alas, there is no template on which to base one's self, and I suppose that's how it should be.

However, there are some things that greatly improved my life, and I will of course share those with you.

1. Respect Your Elder Homosexual. When I was young and on the verge of coming out of the closet, it seemed that every man from the age 40 plus wanted to buy me a drink or chat me up at the local bar. There were times when I'd be more than happy to hear the back in the day talks with these men, after all, it was interesting to hear that as bad as I thought I had it, I was very lucky to be living my coming out days now rather than in the past. It's important to realize that not all older men want to get in your pants. Generations are, for the most part, not a good thing. Keep an open mind, especially if you'd like for people to be open minded about you. Besides, you might learn something, get an interesting story, or at the very least, get a free drink.

2. Volunteer. Giving your time is a good way of helping in places where help is greatly in need. Even if it's a few hours at some circuit party, take the time out to give something back to the community. I remember not too long ago there seemed to be nowhere to turn for any social gay activity. Many of these programs are lightly funded, which means that their survival is critical on people like you helping out whenever they can. Besides, doing something productive keeps you from spending all your hard earned money at the Kenneth Cole Flagship Store.

3. Realize That Sex Is Just That.....Sex. This is a lesson I still have trouble learning. In my life, I of course want a boyfriend, someone to share my life with, someone to call at the end of the day, someone to hold my hand in a dark movie theater. I won't lie and say that I'm chaste. I'm not. If I am attracted to a guy, there is a sexual undercurrent in just about anything that guy may do - the way he talks, the way he walks, the way he closes his eyes when he's excited about something he is talking about, blah blah blah. As much as I am paying attention to his every word, another part of my brain fantasizes about running my hand below his shirt and getting to that first kiss, followed by that first naked encounter. I don't always have patience to wait until everything feels right, and if I leap to soon, sex happens and that ends up being all it is. I could kick myself, I could blame him for not having the same level of interest, or I could just move on. Say how you feel. Say what you want. But if it's just sex... understand that's all it is.

4. Believe In Love. I have a number of friends who think that because we aren't straight, we have no set of rules. Monogamy plays backseat to tricking and threeways. Marriage is a punch line and not a destination. Few believe in true, everlasting love because few are willing to work at what it takes to get there. There will always be another pretty, shirtless, buff boy to objectify. As Chris Rock says, "a man is only as faithful as his options." The more options he has, the less likely he is to settle down. Well...going against the grain, I do believe in love. I do believe in happy ever after. And as long as I still have ample space on my website, I'll say it loud and clear. Settling is for idiots. Go for what you want.

5. Honesty Has Its Limits. I can't always say what I'm thinking to people who might even need a dose of medicine. As gay men, we pass off some pretty sharp statements and pass it off a comedy or wit. (I should know, it's in some of my columns...) though it's one thing to write a fictional story about some shortcomings, be gentle when advising friends about matters in life. You don't have to lie, but just be careful how you construct your truth. Hurt feelings are never pretty.

6. Coming out - A Good Or Bad Idea? For me, coming out helped make my life bearable. I do know some who, for many reasons, feel they cannot do so. Different strokes for different folks, I say. I encourage coming out, but hold respect for those who in their own way get through their lives without having to do so. That said, there are ways to coexist, but being on opposite sides makes dating extremely difficult. With friends, it's easy to accept differences, and in relationships, since there is more weight to each issue, some of these issues can make or brake a union. Bottom line - do what's best for YOU.

Well, that's all my wisdom for now. Maybe one day I'll reach ten things, but today, there are only six.

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AC: What were some of your first thoughts when offered the job at HRC?

CG: It was something that I had to do. No pressure to do it other than myself. Never went to Pride, never realized I could be fired from a job. Felt if I didn't take the opportunity I would regret it.

AC: What have been some of the hidden rewards of the job?

CG: The ability to move beyond the beltway…it is easy to live, eat, sleep, and breath politics.

I get to meet the people we [HRC] are working for. (Humorously) We're professional homosexuals. Also, I'm getting to meet a lot of the pioneers of the movement.

AC: What are some of your goals in your position at HRC?

CG: I want have the resources to support as many people as possible. Earlier this year we did a coming out in a community of color. I want folks to know they are not the only one, there were millions before you. I want to help people see that coming out is not a one time thing; it is a journey not a destination. For the rest of our lives you have to make spot decisions with coming out.

I want to help people understand the larger gay rights picture and get more people to support our issues. It benefits everybody. We can see people changing beyond the beltway, in between the coasts.

AC: What was Newt's reaction to you taking this job?

CG: Publicly he was supportive and that is how he felt privately. He supported my right to be an activist and a part of the political process. He had become speaker with support from very right wing people. Sure it was probably very challenging for him.

AC: What is it like having an impact on so many?

CG: In a sense it is daunting, intimidating. Any time you find your existence kept someone from suicide, dropping out of school or running away. I can't describe how that feels. It makes me glad to have taken the path that I did.

AC: What can a community do to support the coming out of its residents, to make it a more comfortable process?

CG: Establish non-discrimination laws. A city needs to recognize their gay citizens are worth protecting. Maybe establish a domestic partner registry and allowing hospital visitation. We need more gay elected officials.

AC: How do you cope with protestors and hate groups?

CG: It depends on what they are doing. There are categories: opposing out of ignorance, the special rights argument, and the very orchestrated movements. There are the Fred Phelps', the cottage industry – he is just ridiculous. For the most part they are just silly.

AC: What thoughts do you have specifically for Harrisburg/York/Lancaster?

CG: What I have seen is there are lgbt residents in Harrisburg. The city has had a non-discrimination act since the 1970s. The Common Roads Center, serving as a home for youth and several other organizations, is a huge deal. I would like to see more gay/straight alliances in high schools.

AC: What do you miss about central Pennsylvania?

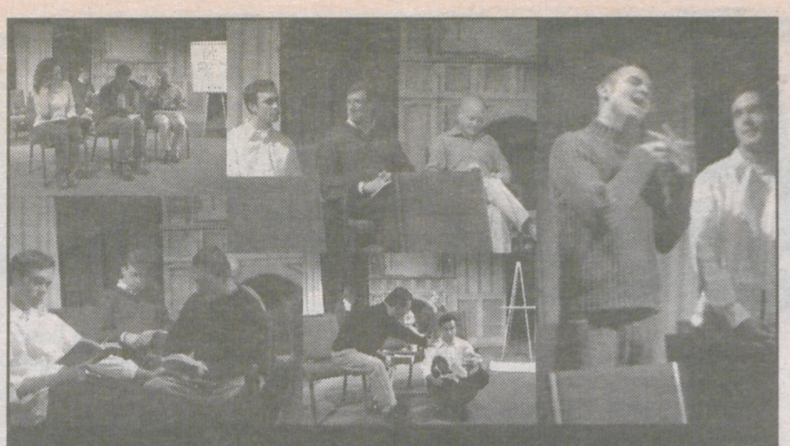
CG: The natural beauty. I never appreciated how beautiful the Susquehanna River is. I miss the local gay community. And, Isaacs, I love Isaacs Restaurants.

AC: Are you dating, partnered, married?

CG: I'm partnered for life. When she asked, she said, "Will you be my partner in life." We've been together five years.

AC: Children?

CG: Not at this point. My partner is working on a book; that's her labor.



Central Sighting - Open Stage - (right picture)Rob Smith, left, and Michael Chapaloney, right, performed in Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart", produced as a benefit at Harrisburg's Open Stage by AIDS Community Alliance (ACA). Smith, an ACA case manager, portrayed the characters of Craig Donner, and Tommy Boatwright. Chapaloney, Alternative Central writer and editor, played New York Times writer Felix Turner. The production was directed by AC publisher and editor Frank Pizzoli.

tunity for lesbians to come together without focusing on lesbian issues, which is important too."

The first retreat, held September 2002, was themed "Stories 'Round the Table." Skillman says that focus was an effort to "honor the voices of women, lesbians in particular, to ask people to listen to each other, to learn from each other and to encourage each other to speak."

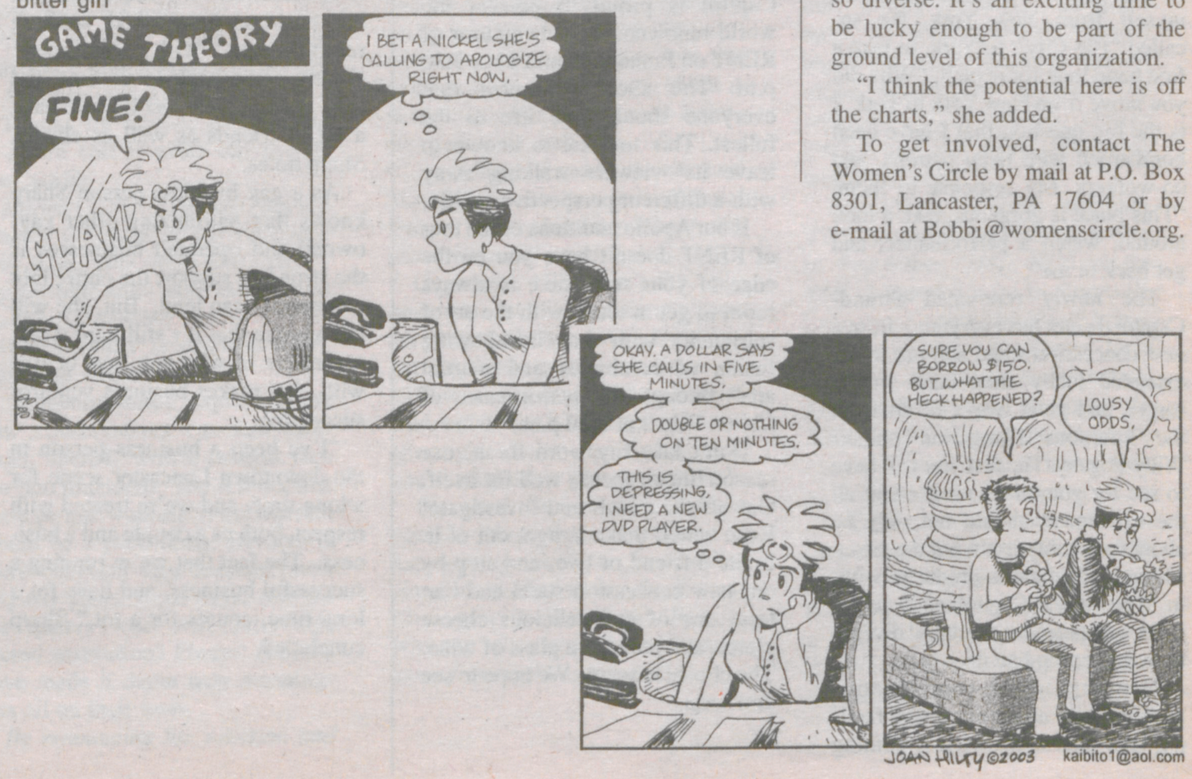
Both women agree that TWC provides more than a solid connection among lesbians - it raises consciousness for us about who we are and the range of life wisdom we have to offer.

"For me, what has been really wonderful to experience through [TWC] is finding out all the nuances and differences between each of us in the lesbian community," said Carmitchell. "The community as a whole is full of amazingly courageous women, and yet we're so diverse. It's an exciting time to be lucky enough to be part of the ground level of this organization.

"I think the potential here is off the charts," she added.

To get involved, contact The Women's Circle by mail at P.O. Box 8301, Lancaster, PA 17604 or by e-mail at Bobbi@womenscircle.org.

bitter girl


GAME THEORY
FINE!
SLAM
I BET A NICKEL SHE'S CALLING TO APOLOGIZE RIGHT NOW.
OKAY. A DOLLAR SAYS SHE CALLS IN FIVE MINUTES.
DOUBLE OR NOTHING ON TEN MINUTES.
THIS IS DEPRESSING. I NEED A NEW DVD PLAYER.
SURE YOU CAN BORROW $150. BUT WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED?
LOUSY ODDS.
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14

Gender Benders Bend Straights at Williamsport Ball

By Adrienne Mansfield, Correspondent

"I have a serious problem with a bunch of faggots parading around campus in dresses," said Williamsport Pennsylvania College of Technology's Chad Wagner. He started a petition to stop the recent "Gender Bender Ball: Where Even a Boi Can Be the Belle of the Ball" sponsored by BGLAD - Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians, and Allies in Dialog.

So much for dialogue.

The atmosphere at Penn College isn't always as gay-friendly as BGLAD would like it to be, one student commented. While the college administration was supportive of the event, much of the student body was, for some reason, personally offended at the idea of cross-dressing.

Problems with the event weren't limited to Wagner's student petition. BGLAD's dance was brought up at a Student Government Association meeting. During an open forum portion of the meeting, there was a heated debate regarding the fact that students were angered by the statement on the bottom of the posters advertising the dance that read, "Drag is encouraged, but not required."

No one asked if Civil War re-enactment players are in "drag" when they convene for a gathering. Or, for example, professional wrestlers who make drag queens look tame.

In response to the ruffled feathers, security was increased for the building were the event took place. No problems were encountered. In fact, most of the heterosexual students that attended felt that it gave them a better understanding of the lgbt community, one student remarked.

"I loved the dance, because it really made me realize how much it brought gay, lesbian and straight people together as students just having fun," said student and ally Joleen Cope.

Music was provided by DJ David Gerlitski out of Philadelphia, and Richie Olsen entertained with three performances. Olsen is a professionally-trained flagger. Master of Ceremonies was Adrienne Mansfield, who awarded the King and Queen Gender Benders promptly at midnight to King Holly Lorentz and Queen Brian Shehaan.

Dance attendee, Talaya Sexton, from Lycoming College, commented on the gender-benders in attendance, "It was really interesting in the sense that sometimes you weren't sure if the person you had been eyeing all night was really a male or female!"

Teen Suicide Case Settled Out of Court;

Memorial Campaign Founded

Allentown — Following negotiations between the family of Marcus Wayman and Minersville Borough, a $100,000 settlement was agreed to by Wayman's mother, Madonna Sterling, as out-of-court compensation for a suit alleging that police violated her son's right to privacy. Minersville is a town of 4,500 about 50 miles from Harrisburg.

Allegedly, after two arresting policemen found condoms in Wayman's car, they claimed he and Matthew Adamick, then age 17, admitted they had stopped to have sex. Adamick denies either boy made the statement. Wayman and Adamick were arrested for trespassing and underage drinking.

Following the arrest proceedings, officers Scot Willinsky and Thomas Holban lectured the boys about the biblical prohibitions on homosexuality. Willinsky had advised Wayman to disclose his homosexuality to his grandfather or that the officer would make the disclosure for him. Wayman shot himself in the head upon his release a few hours later.

The case has been in the courts since the 1997 with Wayman's family arguing that police officer Willinsky and his father, Police Chief Joseph Willinsky, violated Sterling's constitutional rights under the Fourth (search and seizure) and 14th Amendment (citizens right to privacy).

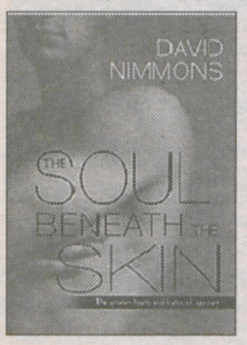
Police began by arguing in 1999 that sexual orientation was not

continued on page 16

Central Sightings – Harrisburg- Metropolitan Community Church Christian vocalists Jason Warner and deMarco recently sang at Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit before a full house. Our music is accepted in the straight Christian community, their press kit notes.The popular duo recently allowed OutoftheCloset.tv agreed to tape one of their concerts as well as create a music video of one of their upcoming music releases called, "All I Long For."

BOOK Review

Information provided by Forever Books, 41 N. Front Street, Steelton (939-5507), Central PA's only gay & lesbian bookstore.



The Soul Beneath the Skin: The Unseen Hearts and Habits of Gay Men

by David Nimmons

The Soul Beneath the Skin explores the wide variety of social and ethical experiments in gay men's lives, and their implications both for gay men and society at large. David Nimmons radically reinterprets gay men's sexuality, intimate relationships and ethics by looking at seven patterns of behavior widely practiced by gay men but rarely acknowledged: non-violent public culture; high rates of altruism, service, and volunteerism; robust sexual caretaking; friendship patterns of diffuse intimacies; friendship with women; diverse forms of sexual union; and unique forms of bliss and pleasure seeking.

Blood Brothers

by Michael Schiefelbein

In Madrid at the age of 7, Juan Ramon Fuertes witnesses the murder of his parents by two thugs supervised by his father's business partner, Martin Esteban. His identification of the murderers dismissed by the police, the boy vows to avenge his parents. Sustained by his lust for revenge, Juan Ramon endures years of abuse in a Spanish orphanage, where he follows the movements of Esteban in news reports. Eventually he notices Esteban's beautiful and pious son, Bernardo.

Told from the points of view of both Juan Ramon and Bernardo, Blood Brothers explores the fascinating mixture of lust, love, spirituality, and revenge underlying the mutual seduction of a holy monk and his unholy brother.

10 Tongues: Poems

by Reginald Harris

10 Tongues. Reginald Harris's debut book of poetry, is filled with variations in mood and voice that are honest and courageous. Compelling and musically rich, these accessible verses from an African-American gay male move across the lines of race and sexuality to sing of family, identity, physical and sensual love, giving deep cadence to the images that haunt daily life.

Twilight Girls

by Paula Christian

Twilight Girls brings together two Paula Christian novels Edge of Twilight and The Other Side of Love. Both featuring Val MacGregor, whose coming out is only the beginning of a quest for love, happiness and a sense of self.

My Lesbian Husband

by Barrie Jean Borich

In My Lesbian Husband landscapes of a marriage, Barrie Jean Borich outlines a life journey made glorious by falling in love. She relates how, as an unrepentant bohemian, she has managed to make a certain peace with tradition-reshaping it when necessary. Throughout her story, she examines what lies outside America's moral center of marriage and the family as she illuminates the complex privelege of living within an intimacy unburdened by cultural imperatives.

Blind Belief
A Katlin LaMar Mystery

by Sherri L. Board

Katlin LaMar, an Orange County Probation Officer assigned to the Gang Violence Suppression Unit has a sense of foreboding when she answers a cry for help. Katlin discoovers a dying woman, whom she instantly recognizes as Marie Esparza, the mother of Miguel "Mooch" Esparza, the young boy being detained for the murder of Katlin's godson. Maria's dying word, "Todopodenso," sets into motion a tale of intrigue, deceit, and violence. The motive for Maria's murder eludes Katlin as she asks herself - was it a random act of violence? Gang retaliation? Or is it related to the trafficking of black-tar heroin? This mystery combines character exploration with the gritty detail of the police procedural.

Central Sightings — **Steelton: Friends gathered recently at new lgbt bookstore, Forever Books, Steelton, for a night of socializing. To receive e-mail announcements of events and poetry jams, send your e-mail address to publisher@foreverbooks.biz.**

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"Sister" is back in 2004 and you're the student in this satiric, hilarious, uproarious piece of interactive theatre about a vastly appealing nun who fully engages the audience. "Sister" is unruly, pointed and entertaining, but never vulgar.

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Allentown Non-Discrimination Advocates Line Up

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights recently lined up with law firm Drinker, Biddle & Reath, the ACLU of Pennsylvania, and Blank, Rome, Comisky & McCauley to file a "friends of the court" brief defending the City of Allentown's non-discrimination ordinance.

After the ordinance was amended last year to include sexual orientation and gender identity, a suit came forth attempting to invalidate the portions of the ordinance related to lgbt people.

Briefs in support of the ordinance were also filed by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the City of Harrisburg. Pepper Hamilton and Gross, McGinley, LaBarre & Eaton are representing the City of Allentown.

The ordinance is very important to people who live, work or visit Allentown, including Center client Dr. Gwen Greenberg, an Allentown transgender doctor, who has filed a complaint of discrimination with the Allentown Human Relations Commission. She was terminated from her position as Director of the Podiatric Residency Program at Saint Luke's Hospital when she informed her superiors of her plan to change her presentation from male to female.

Gwen Greenberg served as Director of the Residency Program at Saint Luke's for 13 years as Gary Greenberg. Greenberg is represented by Elaine Lippmann of Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin in Philadelphia and Cynthia Schneider, of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.

CONGRESSMAN? SISTER MARY ENFORCER FROM YOUR PARISH IS HERE TO DISCUSS YOUR VIEWS ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE...
e-mail pierbergs@aol.com

Midtown Cinema Asked to Vacate Lease

Home to central Pennsylvania's annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, a Jewish Film Festival, and the world premiere of a locally-produced African-American film, Midtown Cinema has been asked by Midtown Market District (MMD) to vacate the theater by the end of January. MMD holds the lease on the popular theater's home.

Below is the announcement of the move made to the region's film community by Harrisburg's Todd J. Shill, Esq., Rhoads & Sinon.

Friends,

As many of you now know, the Midtown Market District (MMD) has indicated that it does not wish to renew the Midtown Cinema's lease, and has asked that the Cinema vacate the building at 250 Reily Street by the end of January 2004. We received notice of this by fax from MMD's law firm on Monday of this week. In the fax, the President of MMD, Clare Jones, did not provide a reason for MMD's decision not to renew the Cinema's lease, nor did anyone at MMD or their law firm contact us ahead of time to discuss this matter. As you can imagine, this came as a complete shock to us.

What we are now learning from the media – and not from Ms. Jones, MMD, or MMD's law firm – is that MMD does not believe that the Cinema is generating enough profit to allow MMD to pay back the $400,000 loan given by the City of Harrisburg to develop the Cinema building. This reason is simply disingenuous. First, so far, the Cinema has been a successful venture. The Cinema has only been operational for two full years. Its first year generated a much better than expected profit, one that far exceeded that of similar start-up businesses. While it is true that revenues were not as good in its second year, largely due to the economy and lack of any breakout independent hits, the Cinema's third year has started strong. Second, and perhaps most importantly, the Midtown Cinema was never intended to be the sole source of revenue for MMD. Rather, MMD, as a nonprofit charged with the mission of economic development in Midtown Harrisburg, was expected to hold fundraisers, seek grant monies and donors, and secure a tenant for the remainder of the Cinema building. All of these activities, together, were expected to raise more than enough money to pay back the City's very generous low interest loan. Unfortunately, Ms. Jones and MMD have not attempted these activities. In fact, we were informed that MMD is barely functioning, does not hold regular meetings, and is looking to gouge the Cinema, one of its anchor businesses, to fund MMD's entire operation. It is simply outrageous and unrealistic to expect that a small independent Cinema can do this alone.

In order to keep up this pretext, Ms. Jones has told her Board members that Mr. Brown and the Cinema has failed to pay what is due and owing under the current lease. Nothing could be further from the truth, and thankfully, we documented all of our dealings with Ms. Jones and MMD's law firm. We became aware very early on that Ms. Jones and MMD's law firm had a fundamental misunderstanding of the economics of running an independent Cinema. This lack of understanding, combined with MMD's complete lack of effort, could cost the community its beloved Cinema.

Because the City of Harrisburg has a lien on the Cinema building, we have asked Mayor Stephen Reed to intervene. In doing so, we will educate him regarding MMD's actions, or more appropriately, lack thereof. If this lease is not renewed, Mr. Brown will take his projectors, screens, concessions, etc. and look for a new home. However, it would be tragic for Midtown and the City of Harrisburg to lose this unique destination business that so many of you enjoyed and worked so hard to build. To that end, Midtown businesses are already beginning to form a group to try to stop this egregious action. If you want to help, please write, call, or e-mail the media and Mayor Reed to express your opinion. We started this project as a community effort, and it will take a community effort to keep it alive.

We wish you a happy and healthy New Year, and promise that we will fight as hard as we can to ensure that we will have our Cinema in the years ahead.

Thank you,

Todd J. Shill, Esq.
Rhoads & Sinon LLP
Harrisburg, PA

Teen Suicide Case continued

considered "privacy" covered under the 14th Amendment. However, presiding Judge Arnold C. Rapoport quickly dismissed this argument. Police and Minersville Borough appealed the ruling to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, where again the motion was quickly dismissed by the high court.

In November 2001, the case was remanded back to Allentown Federal Court where a jury heard three days of testimony and concluded that the police should be acquitted from any wrongdoing. Again, Judge Rapoport threw out the verdict and moved for a new trial.

Finally, in mid-September, Minersville insurance agents claimed that a significant reward for damages would seriously jeopardize the borough's financial stability as well as the Homestead Insurance Company. It would force them into bankruptcy, prolonging the case for an indeterminate amount of time.

"We hope Marcus's family can take some comfort in knowing his case has already affected the lives of other gay teens," said James Esseks, litigation director of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "It tells law enforcement officials as well as guidance counselors and teachers that they can't reveal someone's sexual orientation without facing serious financial consequences."

A Marcus Memorial Campaign, founded in 2001, grew out of the need to educate the public about the tragic case of Marcus Wayman. For more information, visit www.marcuswayman.org.

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Domestic Violence in LGBT Relationships Decreases

by GayHealth.com Staff

The number of cases of LGBT domestic violence (DV) dropped by two percent in 2002, according to reporting programs in Boston, MA. The national domestic violence hotline is 800-799-SAFE.

Help in Pennsylvania is available at The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, Web site: www.center4civilrights.org.

Statistics were released in the 7th annual report from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP). There were 5,092 cases of LGBT domestic violence reported in 2002, a national two percent decrease in reported cases from 2001.

"Reporting of domestic violence is dependent on awareness and there is a clear correlation between outreach and requests for services," said Beth Leventhal, Executive Director of The Network/La Red. "When we have the funding to run an advertising campaign -- to raise broad scale awareness on about LGBT domestic violence and that support is available -- there is a clear and immediate community response."

"In part, the purpose of this report is to 'bear witness,' and give credence to the reality of and voice to some of the individuals within LGBT communities experiencing DV," according to the report released by the NCAVP. "There remains an extraordinary lack of awareness and level of denial about the existence of this type of violence, both by those who are part of the LGBT community, as well as those in the 'mainstream' anti-DV movement, in which services are primarily oriented to heterosexual women."

The report warns, however, that exaggerating the levels of abuse in the community can also further isolate LGBT people. "Conversely there are many who misuse and disproportionately exaggerate information about the existence of LGBT DV to further their own causes of blocking and curtailing the rights of LGBT people to equal protection under the law and within society. Both the exaggeration and denial of LGBT DV, and truly of any type of DV, only serves to exacerbate the isolation of survivors. This same denial maintains an environment in which intimate partner and family violence is able to flourish within all communities, across all demographic lines."

Personal stories and accounts of abuse as well as a listing of participating organizations from across the country are included in the report.

There isn't a lot of research on domestic violence in the LGBT communities. "However, as service providers and community members we speak with people moving through these experiences every day, and know that many more continue to suffer silently within abusive relationships," according to the report.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.

AskGLSH.org

Hours: M-F 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

717.234.0328

Get Connected to your Community

Community Calendar

Let everyone know your events! AC publishes information on events free of charge. Please have your events posted on the form provided at ***info@askglsh.org*** by the 1st of the month prior to the publication of the next issue. AC is published every other month beginning in January.

January 10, 2004
10:00 P.M.
Pennsmen Bar Night Social
The Neptune Lounge, 268 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
Join The Pennsmen for a night of brotherhood and leather fun at The Neptune Lounge starting at 10p.m.
Contact Jessie, 717-232-3785, jes-james71@comcast.net

January 11, 2004
Noon - 5 P.M.
Group Ski at Ski Roundtop
Lewisberry, PA near Harrisburg.
Ski Roundtop offers 16 trails on a 600 foot vertical drop. Skiers, snowboarders and snow tubers of all levels welcome. Join the group afterwards for dinner at a local restaurant. www.skiroundtop.com.
Individual Purchased at Ski Roundtop Ticket Office
Contact GLSH at 717.234.0328, info@AskGLSH.org, www.AskGLSH.org

January 17, 2004
8:00 A.M. (leave Harrisburg)
Ski Trip to Camelback Ski Resort
Tannersville, PA
Skiers, snowboarders and snowtubers of all levels welcome. You'll find 33 trails, 13 lifts including 2 high-speed detachable quads, half-pipe, 2 terrain parks. We'll stop for breakfast on the way to and stop for dinner afterwards at a local restaurant. Shared costs for transportation. www.camelback.com.
Individual purchase at Camelback Ticket Office
Contact GLSH at 717.234.0328, info@AskGLSH.org, www.AskGLSH.org

January 18, 2004
Pennsmen Barnight Social @ DC Eagle!
The Pennsmen Invade Washington DC!
DC Eagle, Washington DC
The Pennsmen help the Centaurs MC celebrate Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend with a barnight at the DC Eagle! Visit us at the club bar on the second floor!
Contact: Jesse 717-232-3785, jes-james71@comcast.net, www.pennsmen.org

January 26, 2004
8:00 A.M. (leave Harrisburg)
Ski Trip to Elk Mountain Ski Resort Union Dale, PA
Elk Mountain has evolved into a sprawling 27 trails, and the most challenging terrain in Pennsylvania! Skiers and snowboarders of all levels welcome. We'll stop for breakfast on the way to and stop for dinner afterwards at a local restaurant. Shared costs for transportation. www.elk-skier.com. Individual purchase at Elk Mountain Ticket Office
GLSH 717.234.0328, info@AskGLSH.org, www.AskGLSH.org

January 30-2/15, 2004
Open Stage of Hbg: Court Street Poetry Jam
Open Stage of Harrisburg, 223 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
Open Stage of Harrisburg presents the city's own hip hop MC's, poet-performers, and performance artists in a high-energy concoction of music and poetry, surrounding the theme "America: Seasoned and Raw". An urban celebration in the style of the Tony-nominated RUSSELL SIMMONS' DEF POETRY JAM. $22.00 regular admission; $18.00 student admission. Box Office; 717-232-6736, management@openstagehbg.com, www.openstagehbg.com

February 05-09, 2004
IGLOO's Winter Rendezvous at Stowe Mountain, Vermont
Visit www.gayskieast.org for more information
Advance Reservation required, higher rates after January 1, 2004.
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February 07, 2004
5:30 PM
ACA - PREMIERE 2004 – A Road Trip Across America
Antique Automobile Club of America Museum – Hershey, PA
Black-Tie Option annual event benefiting AIDS Community Alliance. The event features a silent and live auction, food and entertainment celebrating the diversity and culture of the United States of America. Tickets - $110 individual / $200 couple
Benefits AIDS Community Alliance, 1-800-867-1550, philaca@epix.net

February 14, 2004
8:00 PM
Womyn's Chorus: A Unique Valentine's Celebration!
Faith United Church of Christ New Cumberland
The Central PA Womyn's Chorus presents a unique and touching concert of funny and romantic music. $15 Adult; $10 Students.
Contact: Amy Shestack, 234-4825, info@cpwchorus.org www.cpwchorus.org

February 27-29, 2004
Pennsmen Keystone Capital Run 2004
A Leather Meltdown!
It's been 25 years since the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, and 27 years since the Pennsmen formed! Come celebrate both with a nuclear themed leather weekend! See our website or call for more information! $70.00 weekend registration
jesse, 717-232-3785, jes-james71@comcast.net, www.pennsmen.org

Looking Ahead
March 6, 2004
6:00 P.M.
Susquehanna Club - Annual Banquet, Lancaster, PA
At the Rockford Plantation; potluck style banquet - make and bring your favorite dish. This is the only time we all get together at once! New and non-members welcome. Come be a happy camper. Bring a potluck dish.
camp@susq.org www.susq.org

Support Groups

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc. - Phone helpline: (717)234.0328, M-F 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Some weekend support. Website:www.AskGLSH.org. Email: info@AskGLSH.org. 1300A North 3rd St. Harrisburg, PA 17102.

Lambda AA – Harrisburg - Support group for recovering lesbian and gay alcoholics using 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Quaker Meeting House. 6th and Herr Sts. Lower level. (717)234-5390. Hours: Mon 8 p.m. and Fri 8:30 p.m.

Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of Central Pennsylvania - Support for GLBT families, friends, resources, publications, information from National office & small library. Meets 3rd Monday of each month except August and December. Email: pflagcenpa@yahoo.com, Tressler/DIAKON: Voice: (717)795.0330. 24-hr hotline (717)728.8800.

Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of York. Meets monthly at 7 p.m., Lutheran Home. 750 Kelly Drive, York, PA. For more information call (717)843.3793 or (717)846.2560.

The Quest Group – a supportive, loving spiritual community for gays, lesbians and those who love them that promotes an atmosphere of unconditional acceptance and provides an opportunity to know each other through God and to know God through each other. This is a social group also. Meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Unity Church of Harrisburg. Enola, PA. (717)975-2028.

Rainbow AA of York (Gay and Lesbian AA). Meets Thursday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Trinity Lutheran, 415 N. West St. York. For more information (717)846.2560 or Email: chuck-dk@aol.com

Helplines and Crisis Intervention

Contact Helpline - 717)657.4400

Dauphin County Crisis – 717.232.7511

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc. – 717.234.0328. Support Hours: M-F: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Some weekend support. Email: info@AskGLSH.org.

Holy Spirit Crisis – 717.763.2222

Lancaster Shelter for Abused Women - 717.299.1249

Health and Support Care (AIDS/HIV)

AIDS Community Alliance (ACA) - 401 Division Street, Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110 Phone: 717.233.7190 Toll Free: 1.800.867.1550 Fax: 717.233.7196

AIDS Testing Site – Carlisle - 117 North Hanover St., Carlisle, PA 17013, Toll Free: 800.867.1550 Hours: Every Friday 9am - 4pm FREE Confidential/Anonymous.

AIDS Testing Site – Harrisburg - 401 Division St., Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110 Toll Free: 800.867.1550 Hours: Every Tuesday 9am - 8pm FREE Confidential/Anonymous.

AIDS Testing Site 1 – Lancaster - 545 Pershing Ave., Lancaster PA 17601 Toll Free: 800.867.1550 Hours: Every Tuesday 1pm - 5pm FREE Confidential/Anonymous.

AIDS Testing Site 2 – Lancaster - 625 South Duke St., Lancaster, PA 17601 Toll Free: 800.867.1550 Hours: Every Thursday 10am - 7pm, FREE Confidential/Anonymous.

AIDS Planning Coalition of South Central PA - 3461 Market St., Ste 200, Camp Hill, PA 17011, Phone: 717.761.7628, Contact: Sylvia Hepler, Hours: M - F 8:30 am to 5 pm.

Positive Opportunities, Inc. - 401 Division Street, Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110 Toll Free: 1.800.867.1550, ext 230 Contact: Frank Pizzoli, Hours: By appt. Capital Region Health System at Hamilton Health Center - 1821 Fulton Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104, Phone: (717) 230-3949, Fax: (717) 230-3961, Contact: Linda Dodson, Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm Free or low-cost comprehensive HIV primary care, including internal medicine provided by an HIV Specialist, dental care, mental health and substance abuse counseling, care coordination, nutrition, adherence, on-site pharmacy, lab, x-ray, and free transportation. Patient psycho-social education and groups, including HIV Basics, secondary prevention, universal precautions for families, and patient wellness. Educational sessions, including: HIV/STD risk-reduction (3-4.5 hour course for high-risk individuals, especially for clients in Drug & Alcohol Recovery Programs), HIV Clinical Basics for Professionals, and HIV Basics for Lay-Persons. Free HIV Testing and Counseling. REACCH Program, PinnacleHealth - 2645 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717-782-2750 Fax: 717-782-4761 Contact: Victoria Stueckroth, Hours: 8 - 4:30, M-Fri.

South Central District Office, PA Dept. of Health - 30 Kline Village Plaza, Harrisburg, PA 17104, Phone: 717-787-8092 Contact: Ellie Labajettea, Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 - 4:30.

York Health Corporation - 18 S. George St., Suite 701, York, PA 17401 Phone: 717.846.6776, Contact: Meg Wheeler Hours: M - F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Social Organizations

Business Association for Gay and Lesbian (BAGAL)
Social/Business Professionals. Meets every other month.
P.O. Box 135
Harrisburg, PA 17108 Phone: 717.612.8445. Email: BAGAL-PA@aol.com.

Common Roads - Youth group. Ages 14-24.
Social/Information/Support. Social activities every Friday eve at 7:00 P.M. 1300A North 3rd St, Harrisburg. Email: info@common-roads.org. Website: www.common-roads.org. Voice: 717.920.9534.

Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown - P.O. Box 1952, Allentown, PA 18105, non-profit social group for adult men & women, singles & couples. 1 or 2 activities each month including potlucks, bowling, movie nights, hikes, dinners, etc. Email: glorain-pa@aol.com.

Harrisburg Gay Men's and Women's Volleyball - Social/Recreation. Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm-9:30 pm, Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland Cost: $2.50 Contact: Jim at 233.3172.

Harrisburg Women's Rugby Club - Looking for players for summer and fall league. No experience necessary. Email: rugby-dog34@aol.com.

Lambda Car Club - Social/Recreation. Meets monthly. Email: Buickbum@aol.com Voice: Contact John Ball at 717.238.9766.

Pennsmen. Leather/Levi/Social. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each

continued on page 18

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Spiritual

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit (MCC) - 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.236.7387 Email: mccofthespirit@cs.com, Website: www.mccofthespirit.org. "A Diverse, Christian Community, Fostering Personal, Spiritual, and Community Growth" MCC of the Spirit reaches out to ALL people and offers many ministry opportunities such as: Gospel Choir, Praise Band, and Just Jam. Sunday services are: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7p.m.

St. Michael Lutheran Church - 118 State St. Harrisburg, PA 17101, Phone: 717.234.0092 Sunday Email: stmichael@paonline.com, Website:www.paonline.com/stmike.

Temple Beth Shalom - 913 Allendale Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, Phone: 717.697.2662 Fax: 717.795.7749 Contact: Rabbi Carl Choper, Email: tbs.temple@verizon.net, Website: www.tbshalom.org. Synagogue with open and affirming LGBT position.

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg - 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17113, Phone: 717.564.4761 Email: uch@paonline.com, Website:www.paonline.com/uchuua. Provides a mutually supportive liberal religious environment, which nurtures each individual's free and responsible search for personal meaning and growth. Seeking to be a caring and democratic community, we gather to articulate, question, and affirm our beliefs and to develop the courage to act upon them.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York - 925 S. George St, York, PA 17403 Phone: 717.845.8212, Mon. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - noon. Email: office@uucy.org, Website: www.uucy.org.

Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley - 2 Forge Rd, P.O. Box 207, Boiling Springs, PA 17007, Phone: 717.249.8944. The Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley are proud to bring the voice and the practice of liberal religion to the Cumberland Valley region. All are welcome to join us in worship regardless of age, race, religious background, class, or sexual orientation. We come together to support one another in our continuing commitment to a free and loving search for spiritual meaning and to the expression of that meaning in our community and in our personal lives. Adult services and children's religious education are offered every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Unity Church of Harrisburg, 927 Wertzville Road, Enola, PA 17025, Phone: 717 732-9773. Fax: 717 732-9074, Website: www.unitychurchharrisburg.com, Sunday services, classes, Spiritual & social Support Group for Alternative Lifestyles Group meets twice month.

Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) - 130 East Main Street, Mountville, PA 17554 Phone: 717.285.9070 Worship - Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Contact: Rev. Debbie Coggin. Website: www.visionofhopemcc.com. Email: visionofhopemcc@aol.com.

Social Organizations continued

month at the 704 Strawberry. Contact: Steve at 717.232.3785 Website: www.pennsmen.org, Email: jesjames71@comcast.net.

Pride Festival of Central PA - Planning meetings. Meets second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Volunteers welcome. Email: info@harrisburgpride.org. Website: www.harrisburgpride.org. Voice: 717.234.0328

The Rainbow Bowling League - ABC Bowling Lanes - Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg. The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. The Rainbow Bowling League is considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We invite anyone interested in joining. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes. Contact: Mark or Robert 763-8444 for more details.

Renaissance LSV - Transgendered. Social/Information/Support. Meets the 1st Saturday of each month. Email: renaissancelsv@hotmail.org. Website: www.ren.org. Voice: 717.780.1578.

Susquehanna Valley Bears - P.O. BOX 61478, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1478. Website:: www.svbears.com, Email: svbears@svbears.com

Susquehanna Club - Recreation/Camping. Membership organization. Website: www.susq.org, Email: camp@susq.org. Contact the Switchboard for more information.

Womyn's Chorus of Central PA - Social - Regular rehearsals every Monday night at 7 PM. We need YOUR voice and spirit. Email info@cpwchorus.org. Website: www.cpwchorus.org or call 717.234.4825.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, inc. Alternative Central

START your membership and subscription

The Switchboard is always looking for help with its programs. It takes money and volunteers to operate the Switchboard. If you would like to help by volunteering to serve on the phone line, helping financially through membership or a donation, give us a call or write GLSH and use the attached form. Thank you for your help.

NAME _____ PARTNER'S NAME _____

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Membership includes one year subscription of "Alternaive Central." Mailed in an unmarked first class sealed envelope. Make check payable to GLSH. Mail to GLSH, 1300A North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

I am interested in volunteering for:_____the telephone line_____committees/projects

___Please send me information about listing my business/organization with the Switchboard

Please return this form with payment. GLSH is a 501(c) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

717.234.0328

Market Place

Business card advertisements can be place in Market Place for three issues at the cost of $85.00. Please contact Benchmark Media for business card placement. See page 3 for Benchmark Media contact information. ALL advertisements must be received by the 1st of the month prior to the publication of the next issue. AC is published every other month beginning in January and unconditionally reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

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Where to Find Alternative Central

Harrisburg & Surrounding Area
Midtown Cinema
Women's Center for Creative Expression
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg/Resource Center
MCC of the Spirit
Bare Wall Gallery
Sparky & Clarks Coffee Shop
Roxy's Cafe
The Pink Lizard
704 Strawberry
Stallions
Neptune's Lounge
The Brownstone
Borders Books & Music (East and West Shores)
Barnes and Noble (Camp Hill)
What if...Cafe
The Tenth Muse

Lancaster Area
Club 168 (Manheim)
Tally Ho
Sundown
MCC Vision of Hope (Mountville)
Borders
Belvedere Inn
Barnes & Noble

York Area
Velvet Rope
Altland's Ranch

Reading
The Scarab Bar

State College
Chumley's Bar

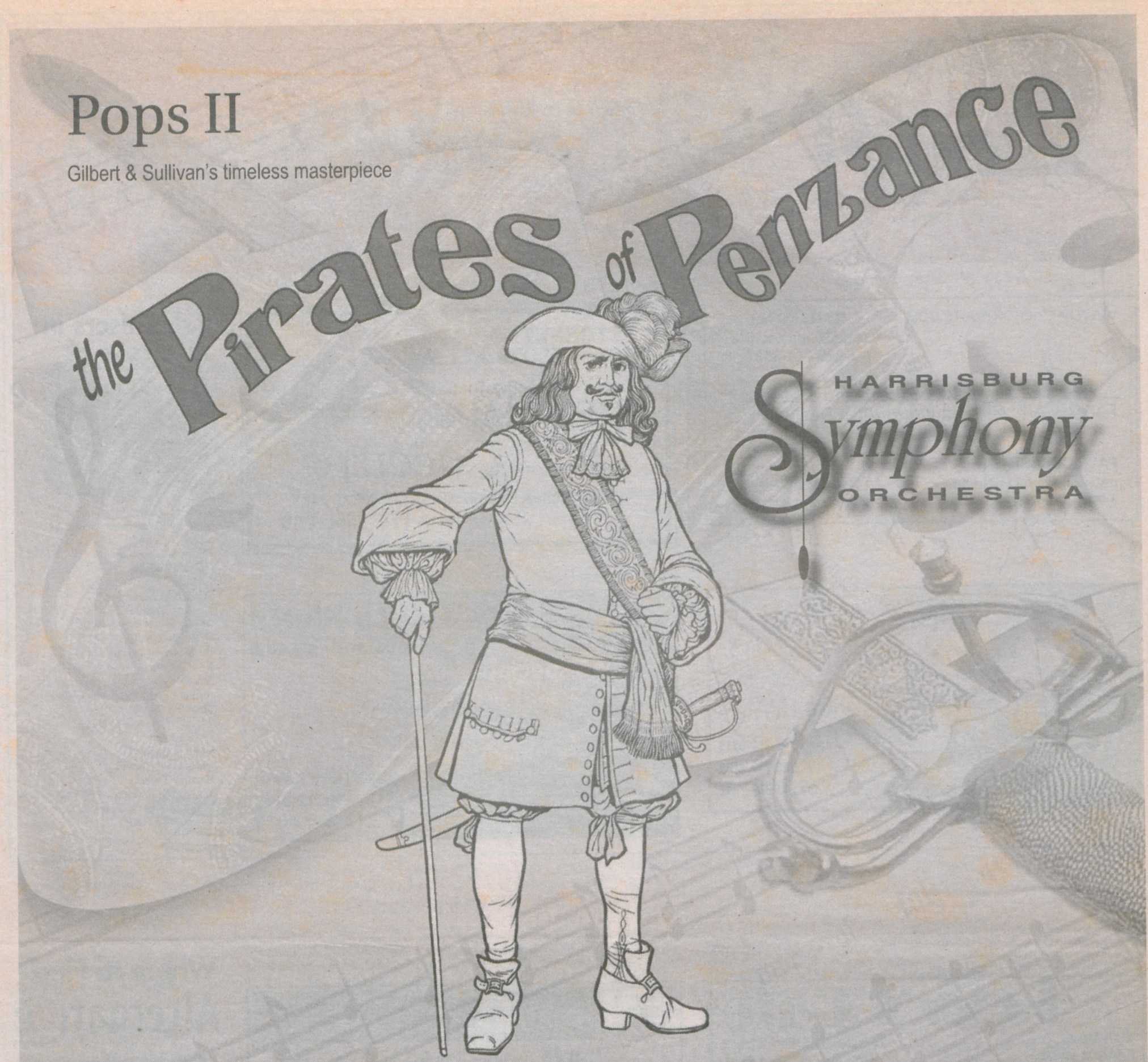
Stroudsburg
Rainbow Mountain Resort

Williamsport
Peachies Bar

Single copies of Alternative Central are available at the above authorized distribution points to any individual within a 75-mile radius of Lancaster, York, Harrisburg Region. Multiple copies are available from Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg (234-0328)

Pops II

Gilbert & Sullivan's timeless masterpiece



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